

JULY
No.55

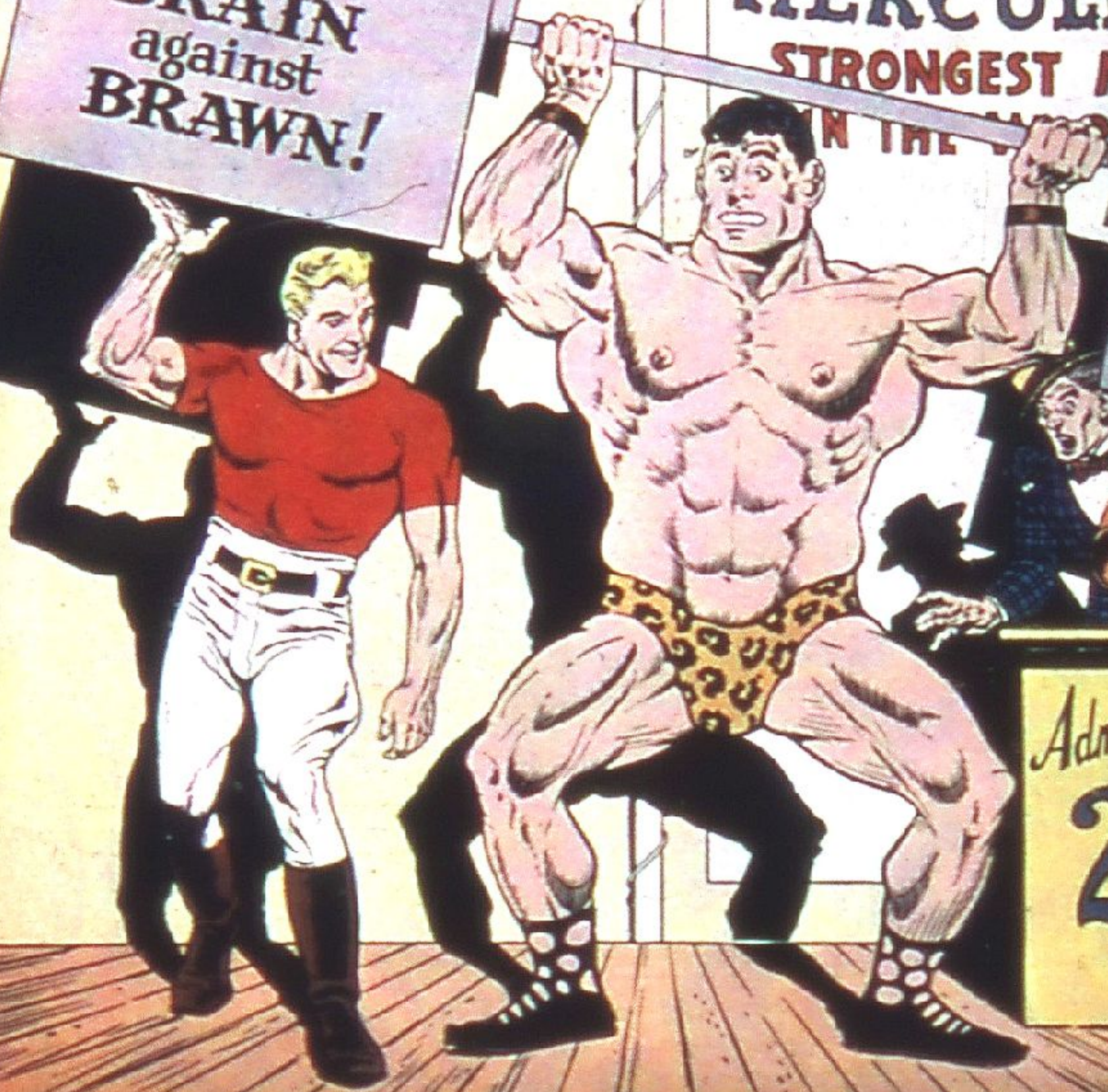
CRACK COMICS

10¢



Captain
TRIUMPH
matches
BRAIN
against
BRAWN!

HERCULES
STRONGEST MAN
IN THE WORLD



Admission
25



WEB COMIC
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Famous BANNER

FIREWORKS!

ZIP! BOOM! BANG!
OH-BOY!

This year don't be satisfied with just buying fireworks. Get the best—Get the most for your money—don't be disappointed—Get BANNER FIREWORKS with those new startling creations. BANNER FIREWORKS have all the ZIP-BOOM-BANG you expect of fireworks.

**BUZZ BOMBS • STAR SHELLS
BLOCK BUSTERS • SIREN AERIAL BOMBS
ZIG ZAG WHISTLES • FLASHLIGHT CRACKERS**

and many others that will thrill and amaze you are just some of the newest creations that you get in this BIG BARGAIN ASSORTMENT.

**No. 1—SPECIAL \$11.25 DELUXE ASSORTMENT OF
MORE THAN 500 PIECES FOR ONLY \$4.95**

Other items in this giant assortment include Electric Cannon Salutes that will really rock you... Zig-Zag Musical Salutes, Black Snakes that amaze grown-ups as well as children... White Muds that really kick, Silver and Gold Fountains, one of our most beautiful pieces—large size Black Humdingers (They're really humdingers)—Whistling Devils whose devilish action will amaze you—3 Shot Automatic Repeating Bombs—

1 Shot repeating Aerial Flash Bombs—Cone Fire of Red, White and Blue display—Large Triangle Wheels—Sky Rockets that end in a majestic display of Red, White and Blue Stars—Zebra Flash Crackers, the loud kind—Flashlight Crackers—10 Ball Roman Candles—Comet Star Shells, the most beautiful night display ever offered and Sparklers for the little tots. Remember, you get over 500 pieces in all with a retail value of \$11.25 for only \$4.95.

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EVERY PIECE
A REAL
NOISE-MAKER

Aerial Bombs—Block Busters—Red Devils—Flash Salutes—Zig-Zag Musical Salutes—Flashlight Crackers—Star Shells—Black Humdingers and many others. More than 500 pieces—all for only \$4.95.

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THE MOST BEAUTIFUL
NIGHT DISPLAY OFFERED
ONLY \$4.95

**QUICK ACTION COUNTS—ORDER NOW
WHILE STOCKS ARE COMPLETE**

This year we have greater facilities for serving you. There will be plenty for those who act quick. But orders are coming in fast and we do not want to disappoint anyone. So rush your order today—NOW.

CASH WITH ORDER—NO C. O. D.'s.

Send payment in full with order—Certified Check—Bank Draft or Money Order. If you send currency be sure to register letter. All shipments sent by Express F.O.B. Toledo. Give nearest express office if different from your town.

BIG NEW CATALOG—FREE

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BANNER FIREWORKS MFG. CO., Inc. Dept. 748
446 West Capistrano TOLEDO 12, OHIO

Enclosed find . . . \$ for which ship me . . .
Big Combination offers as checked below.
() No. 1 Big Deluxe Assortment . . . \$4.95
() No. 2 Giant Kracker Assortment . . . \$4.95
() No. 3 Family Lawn Display . . . \$4.95
Name
Street
City State
Express office if different from above

**BANNER FIREWORKS MFG. CO., INC. Dept. 748 446 CAPISTRANO
TOLEDO 12, OHIO**

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Captain TRIUMPH

Nobody's too big or too tough for **CAPTAIN TRIUMPH!** The invincible warrior against crime and injustice again smashes his way to victory over a throng of enemies huge and grim beyond any normal human concept!



The secret of Captain Triumph....

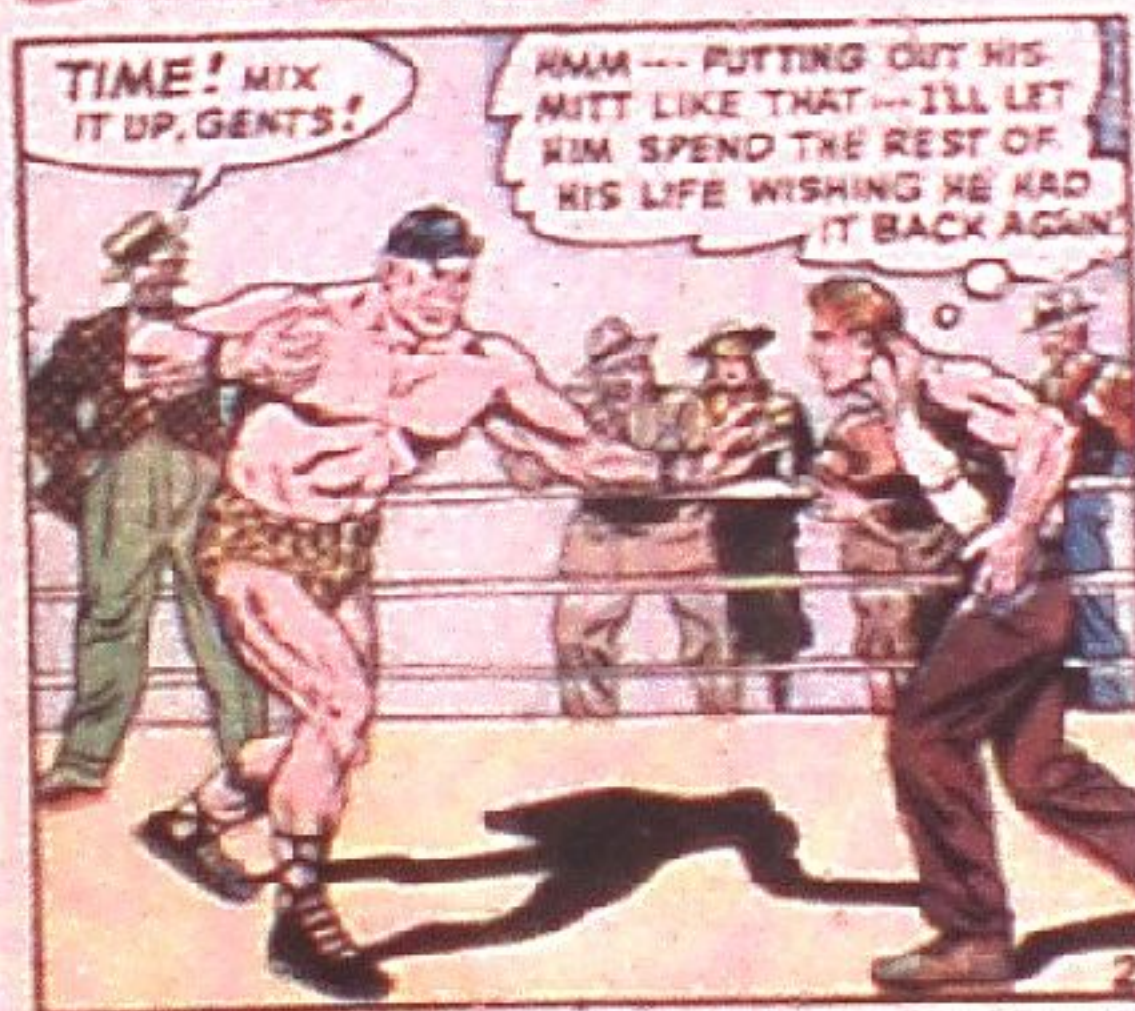
I'M MICHAEL GALLANT... OR, RATHER, HIS GHOST! AFTER I DIED IT WAS DECREED THAT WHENEVER MY TWIN BROTHER LANCE TOUCHED THIS MAGIC BIRTHMARK ON HIS WRIST...

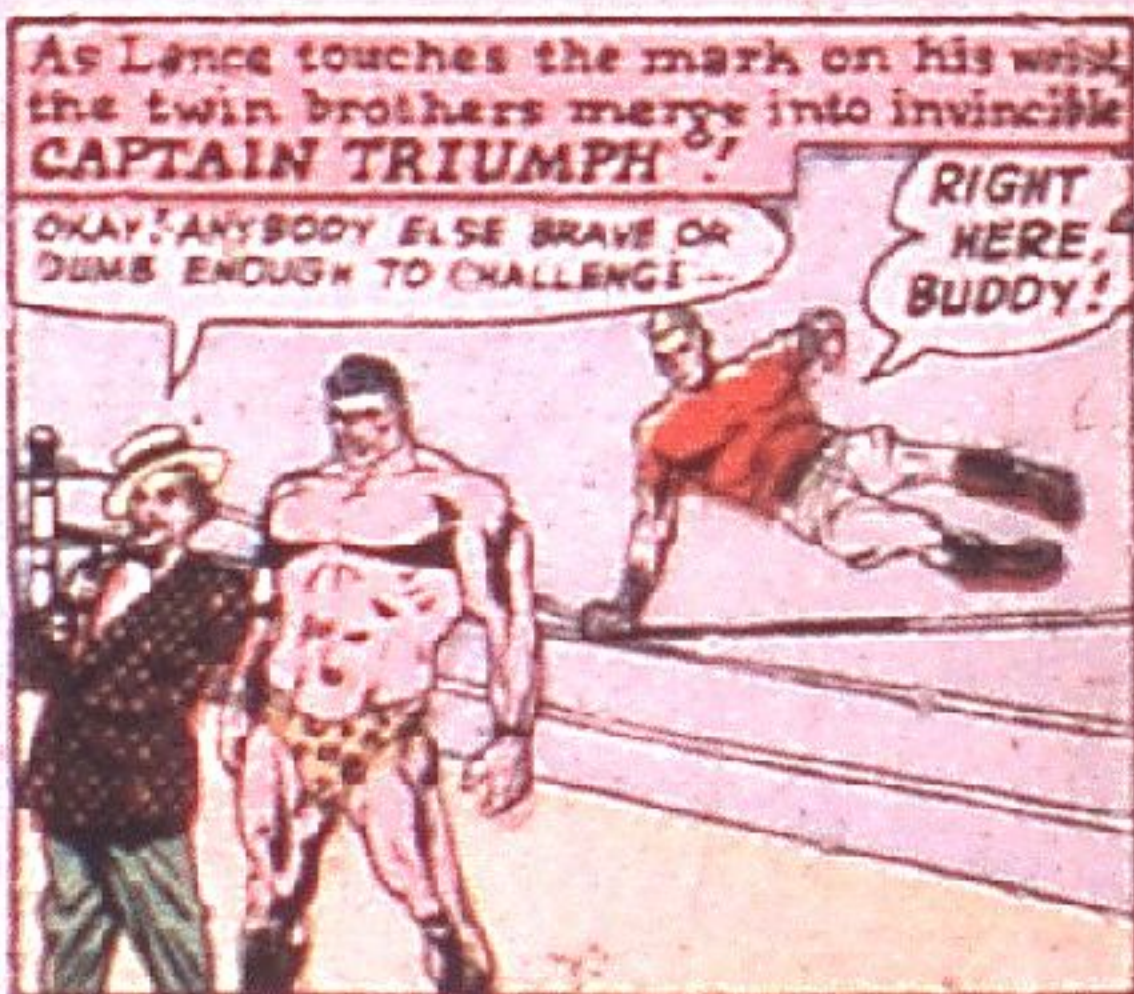
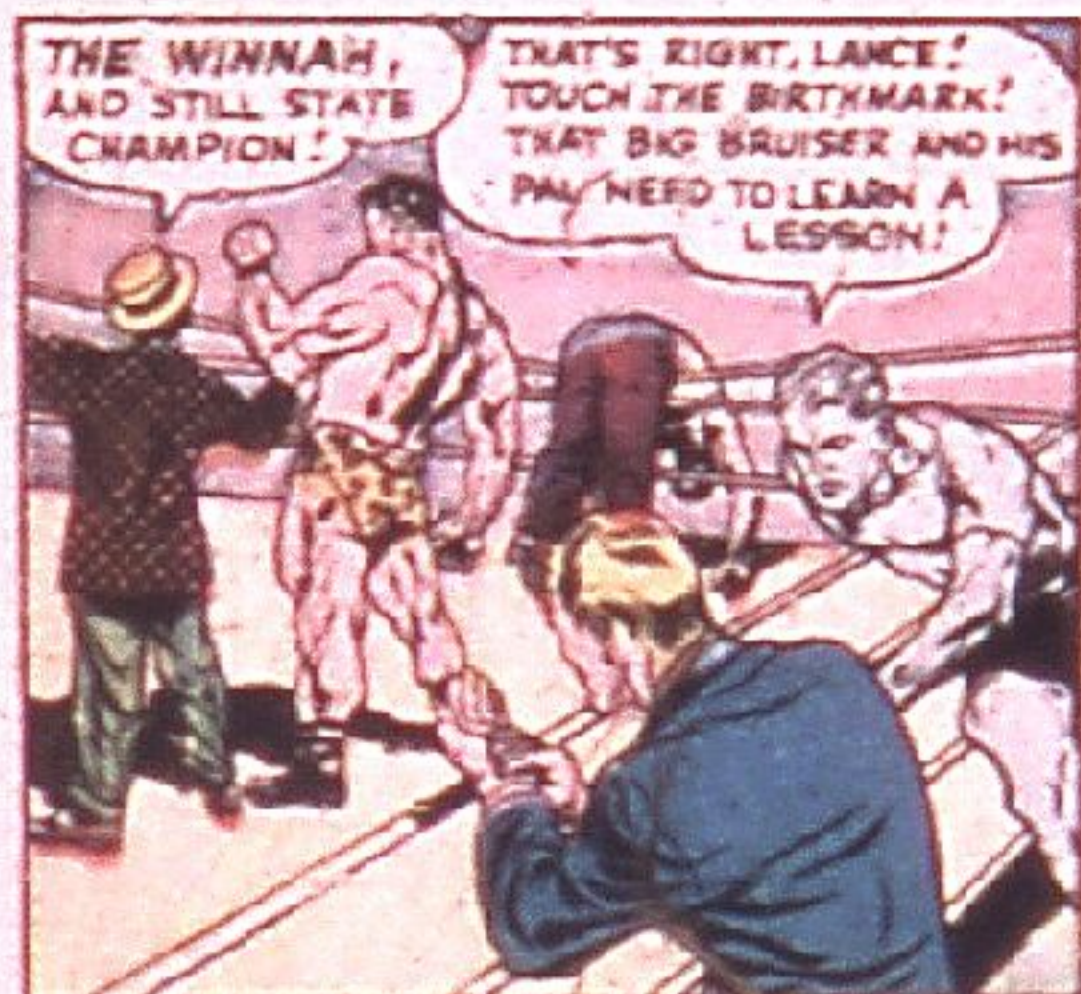
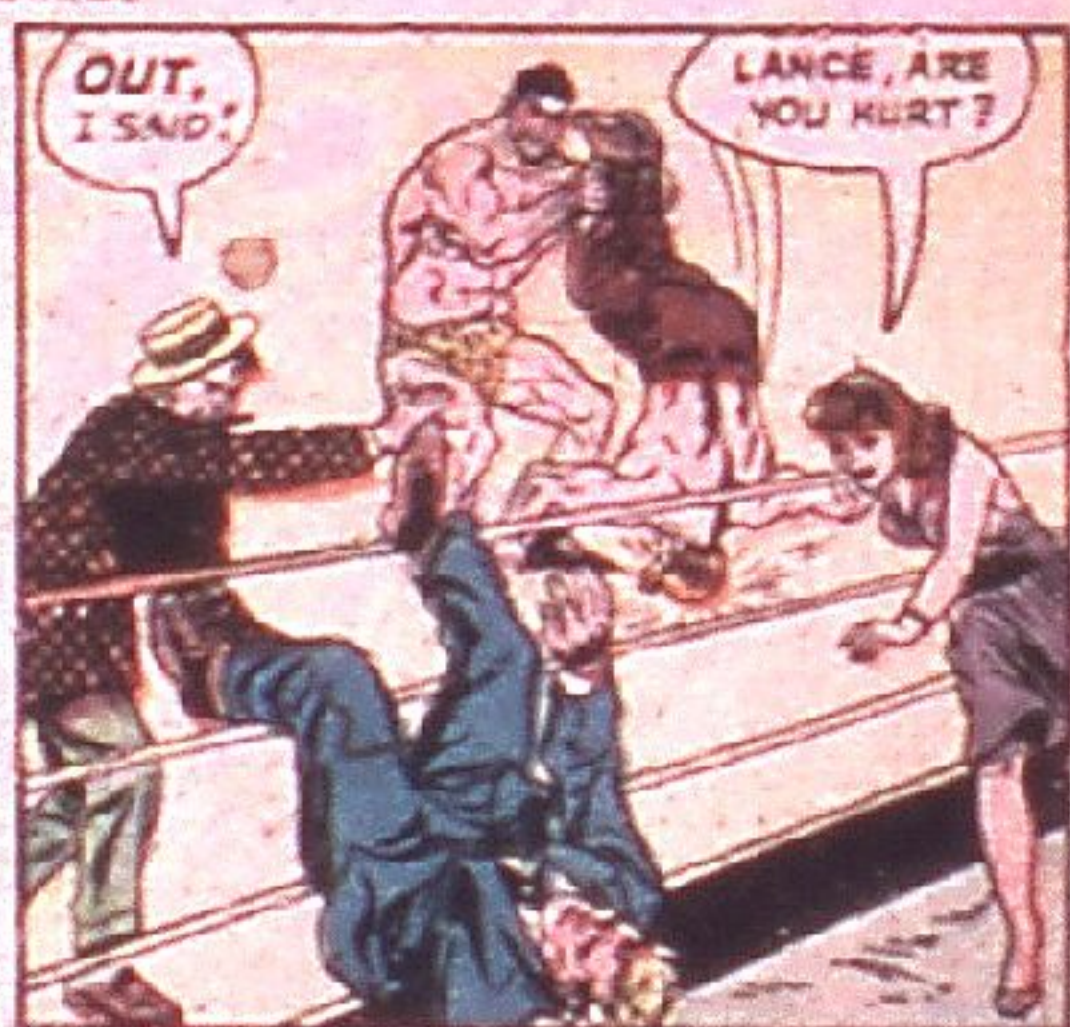
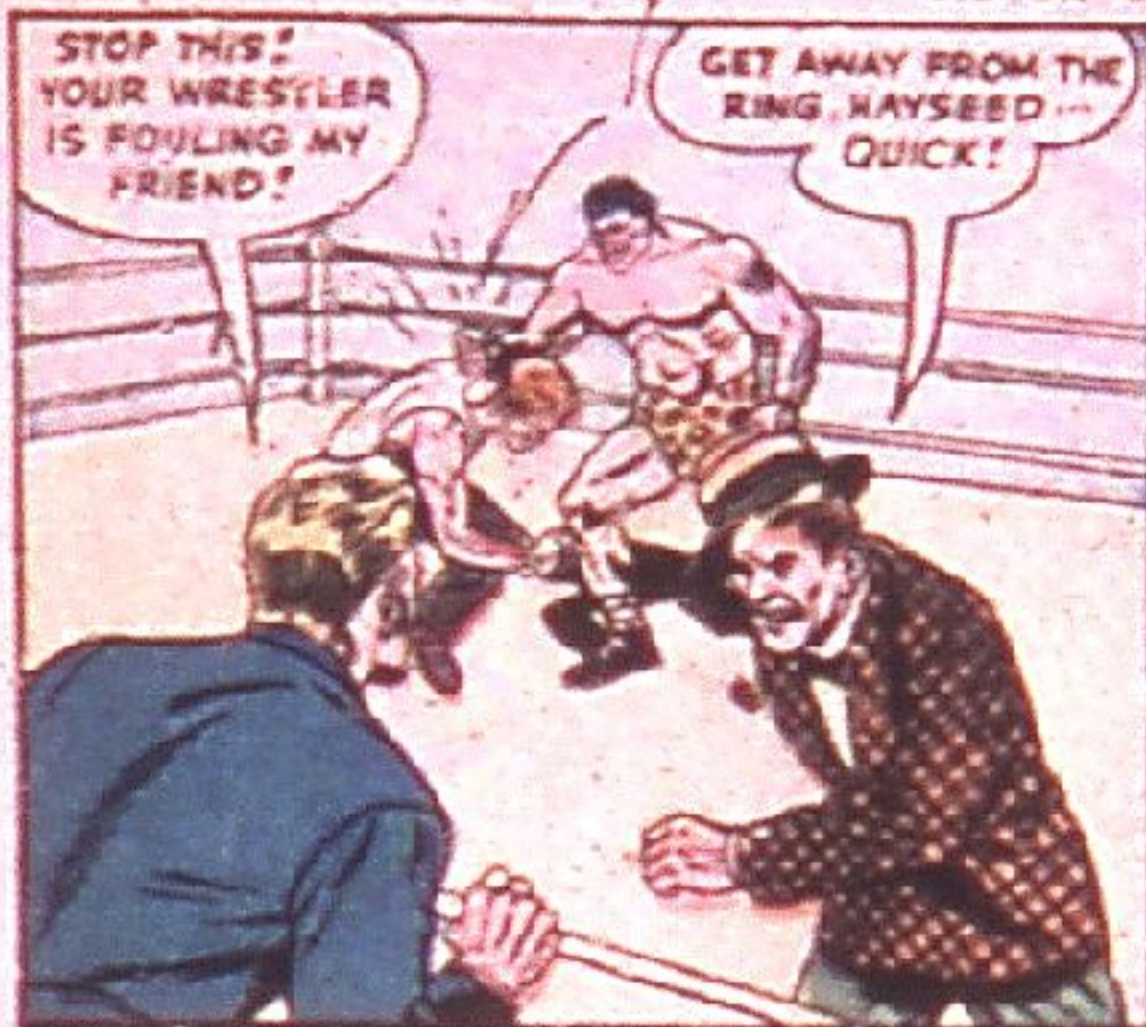


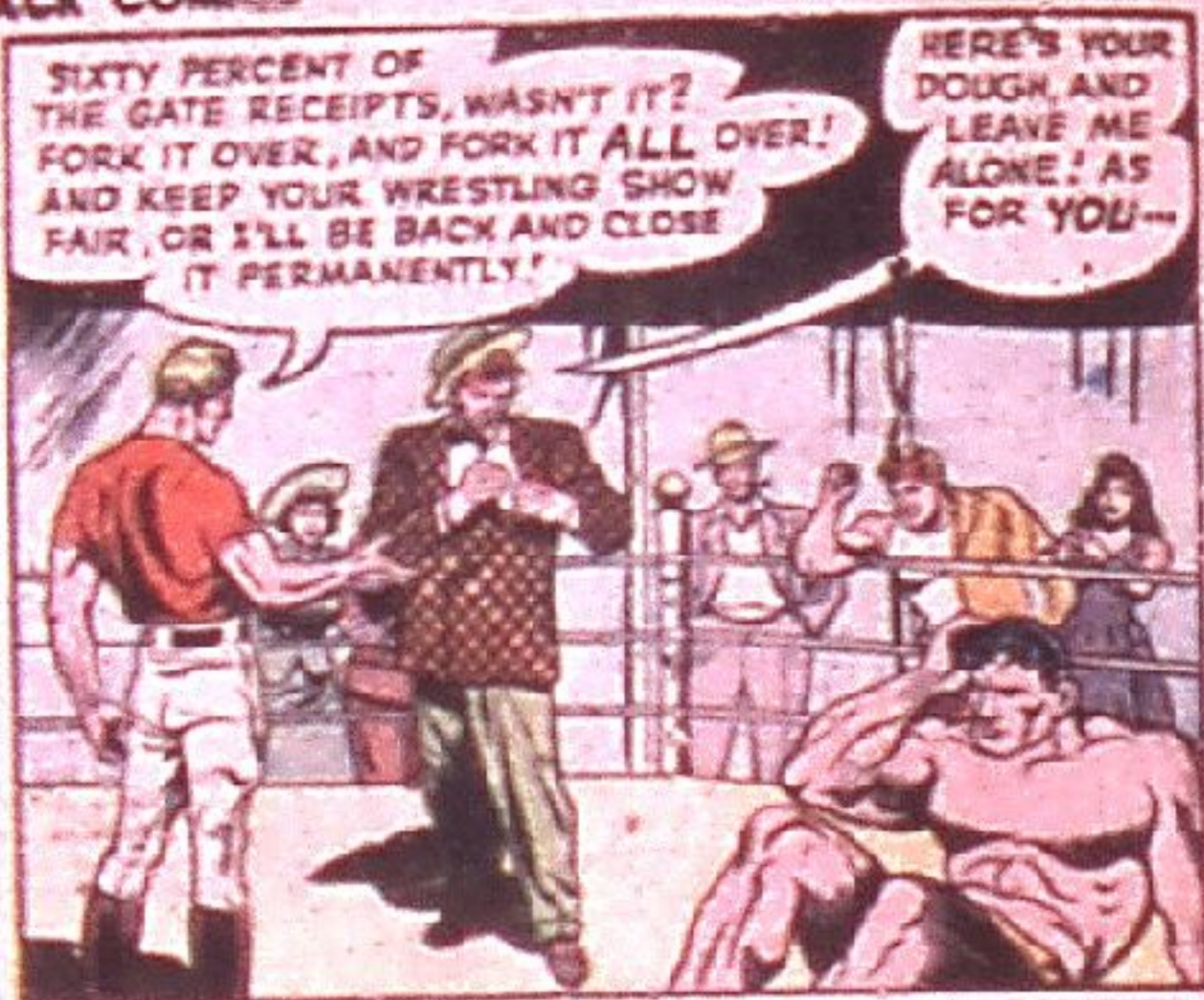
MICHAEL AND I MERGE INTO **CAPTAIN TRIUMPH!**

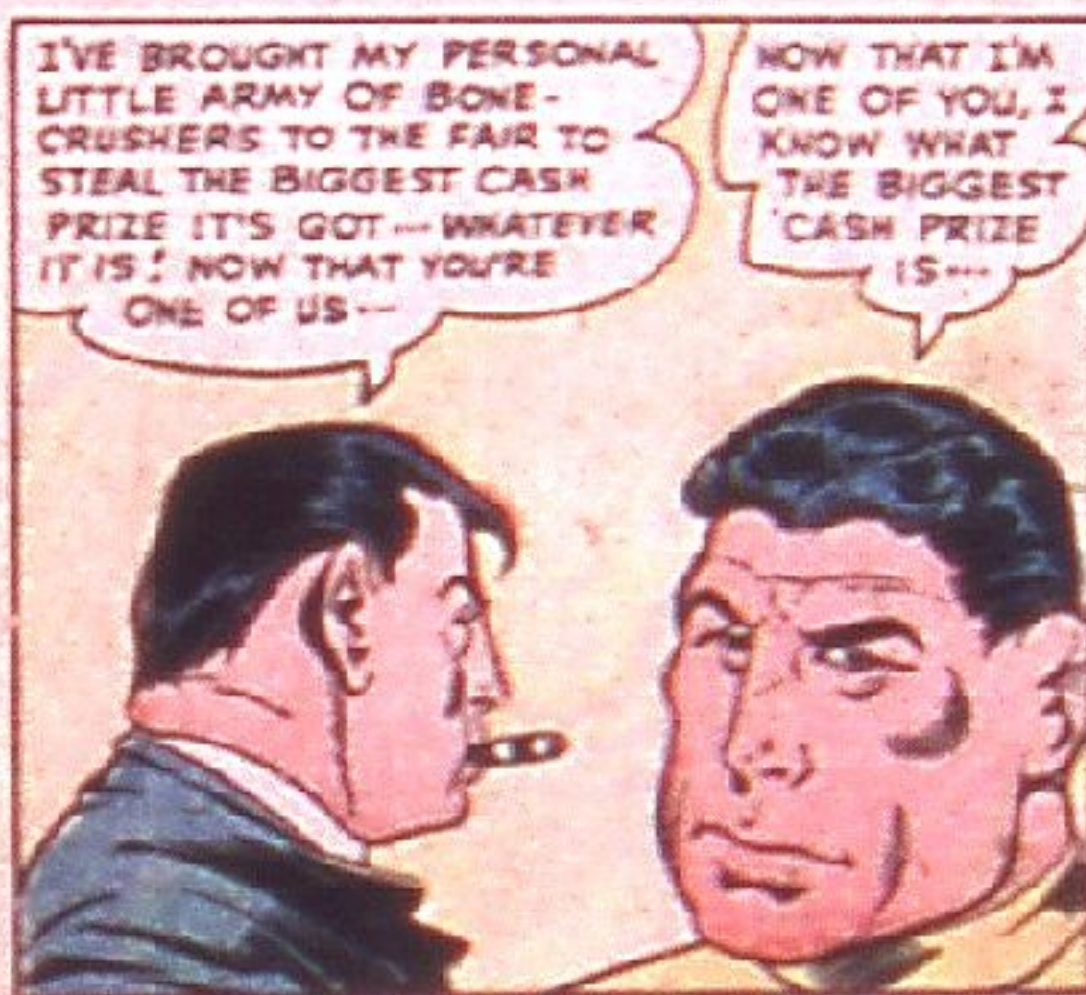


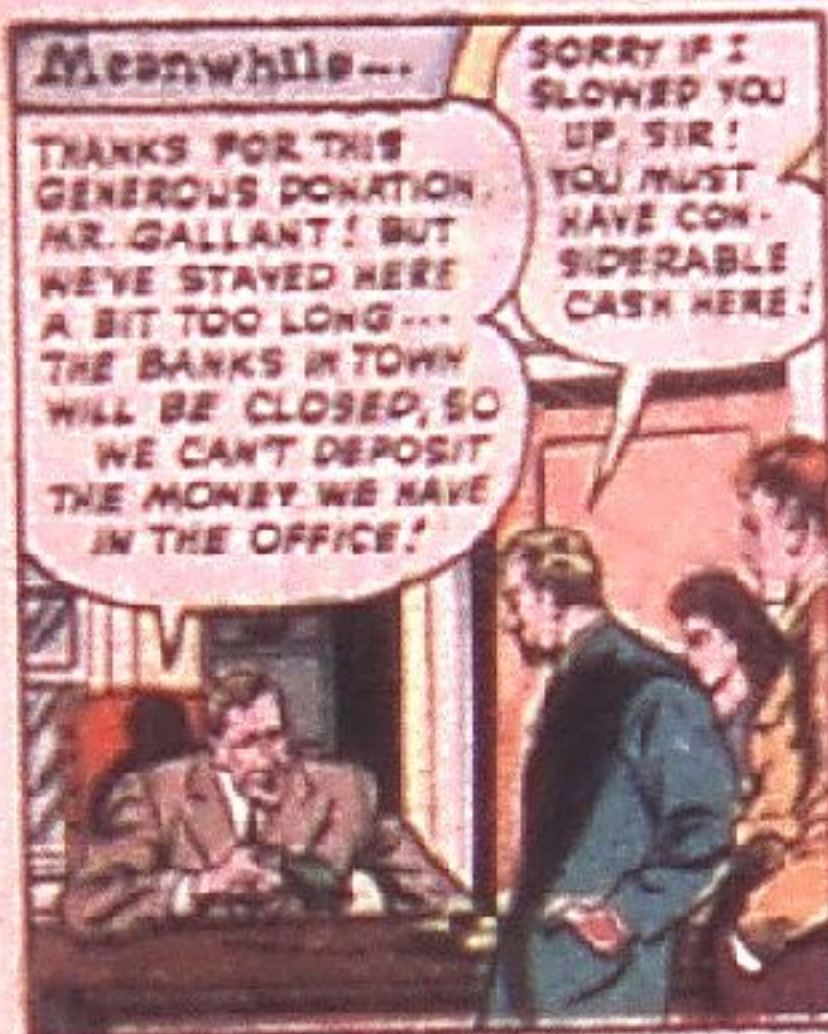
There is a fourth member of the party, visible and audible only to Lance Gallant-- the ghost of Michael, his twin brother--



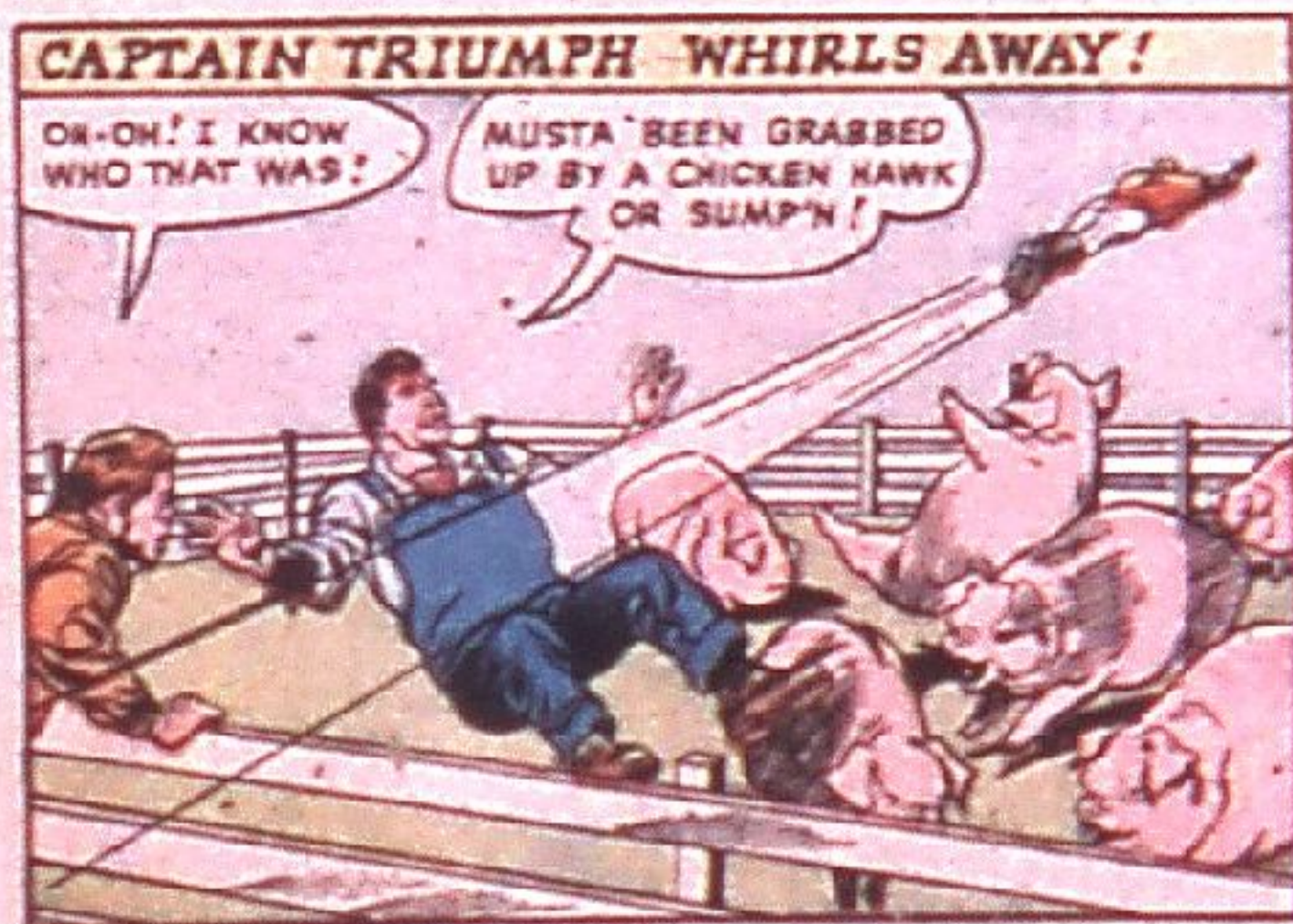


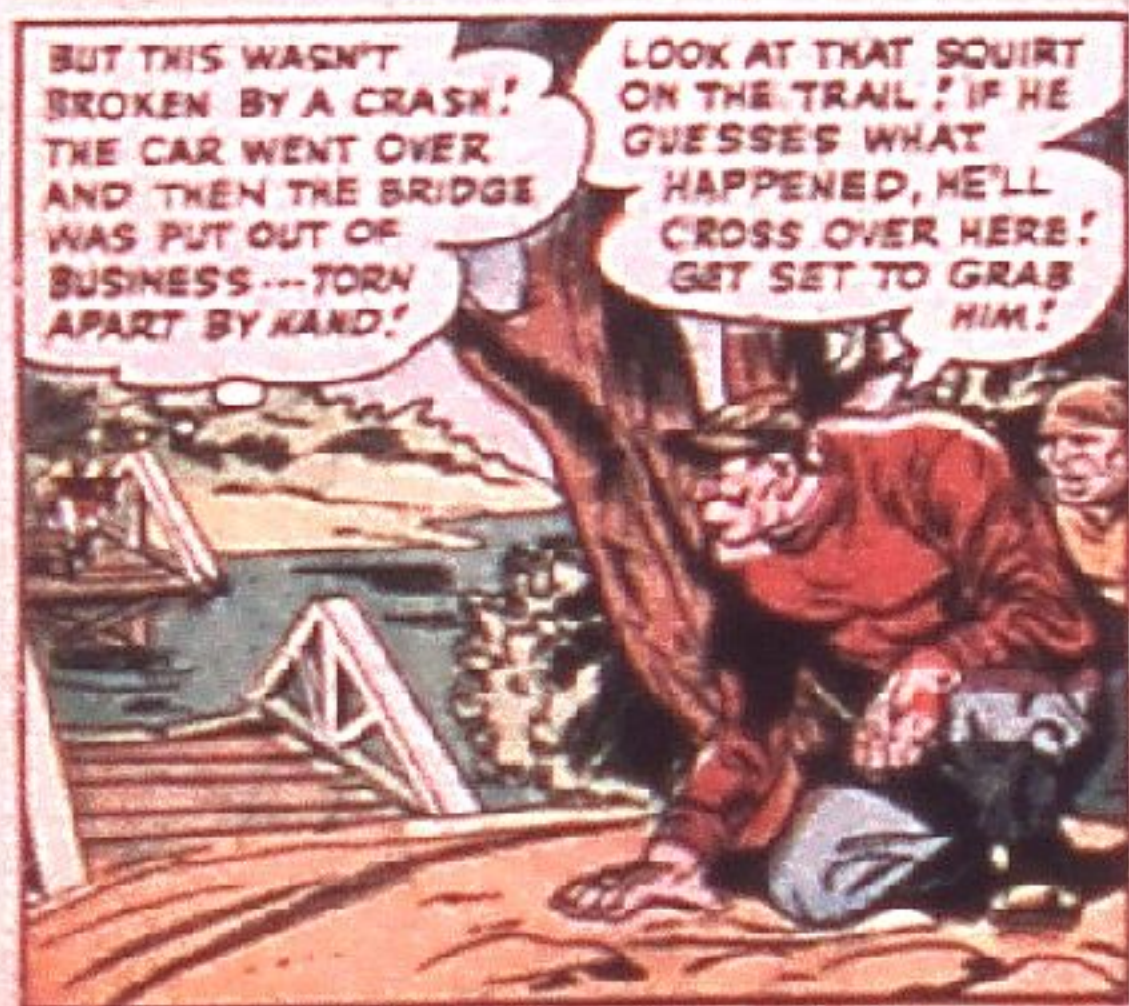
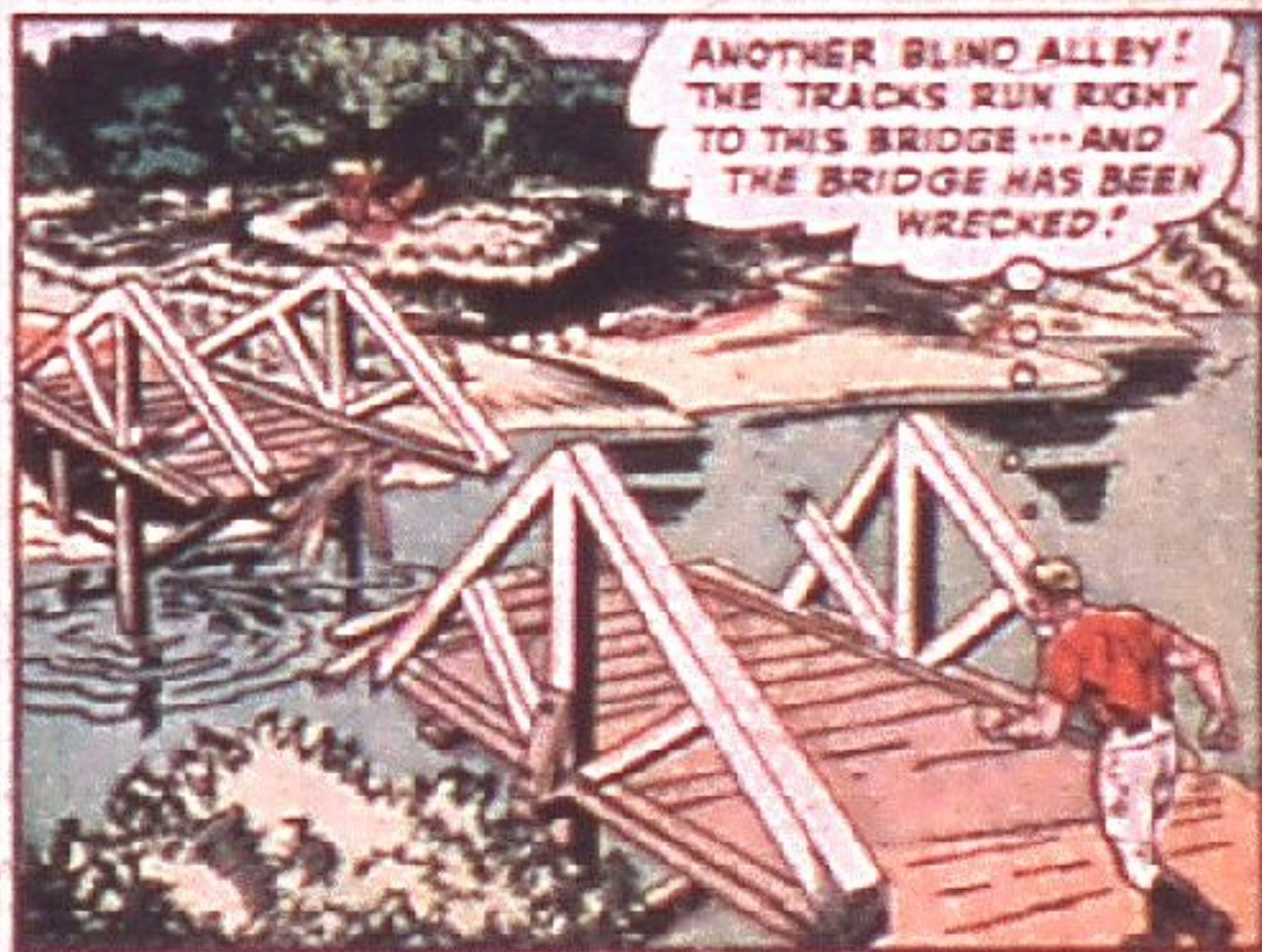








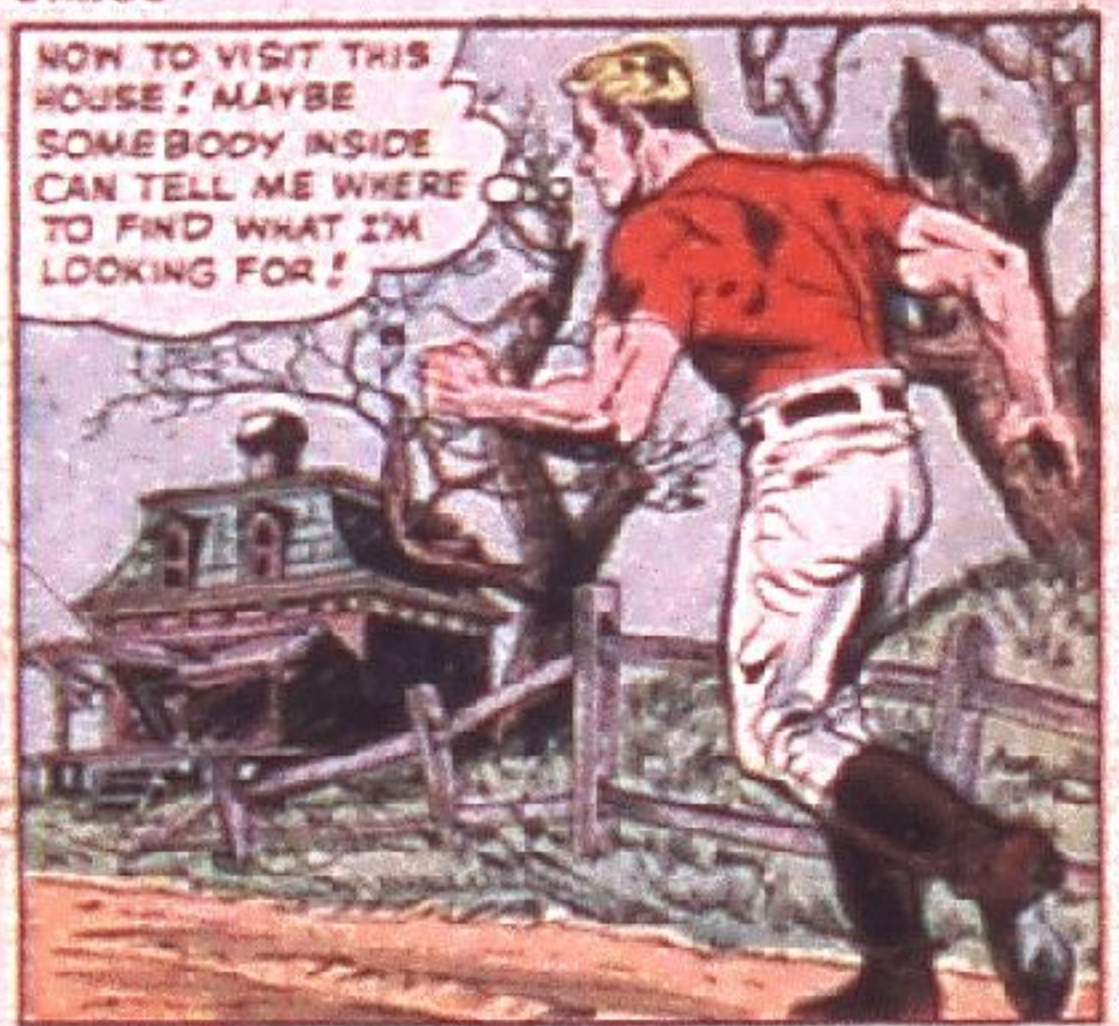




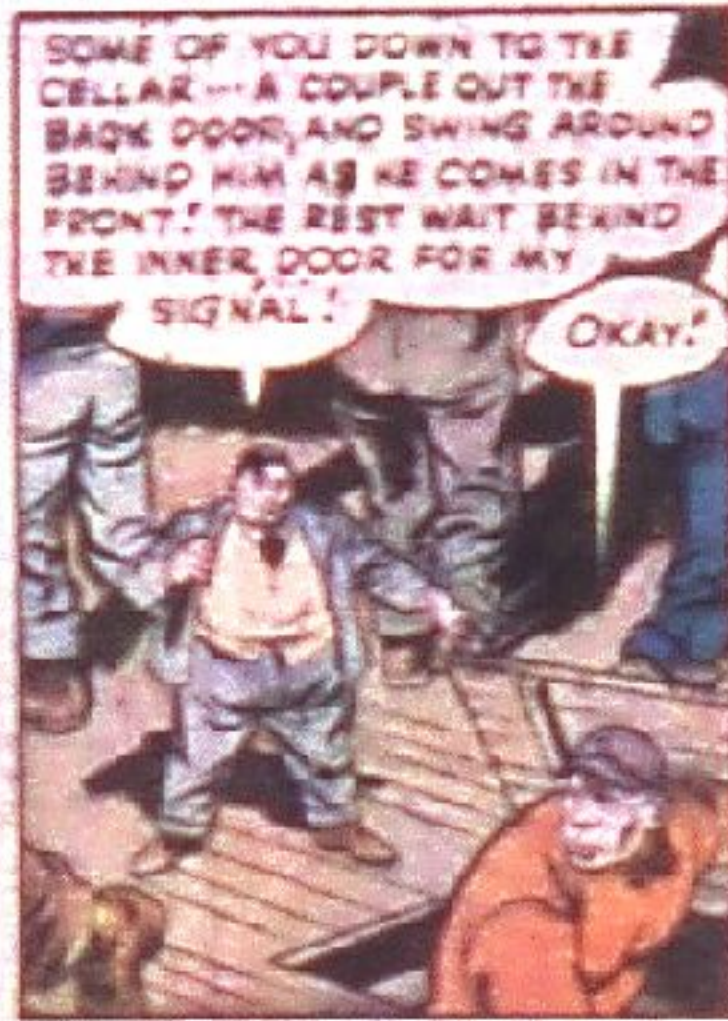
LOOK AT THAT SQUIRT ON THE TRAIL! IF HE GUESSES WHAT HAPPENED, HE'LL CROSS OVER HERE! GET SET TO GRAB HIM!



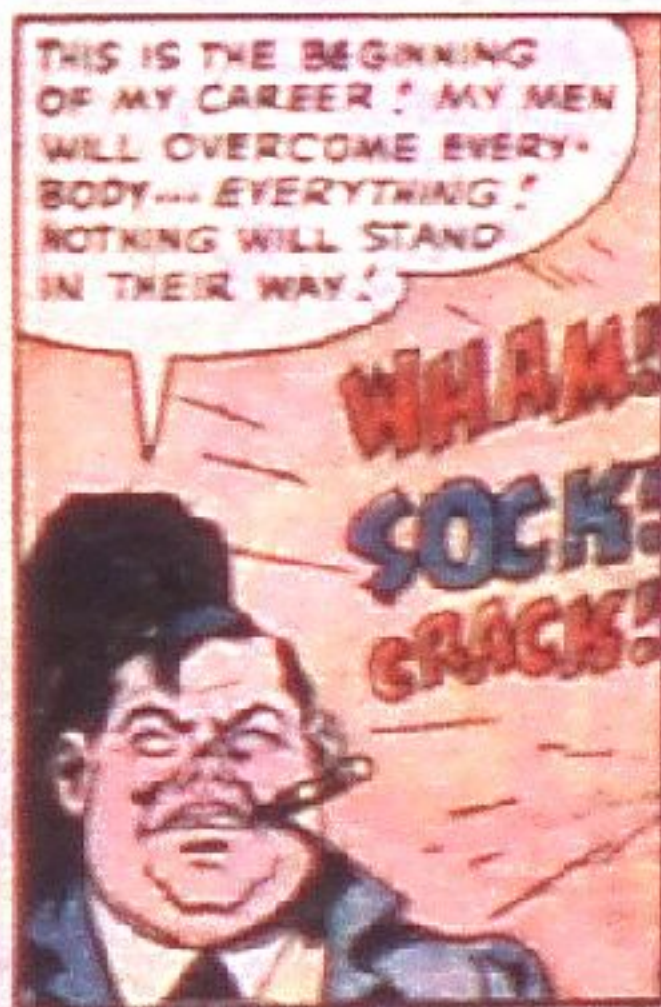
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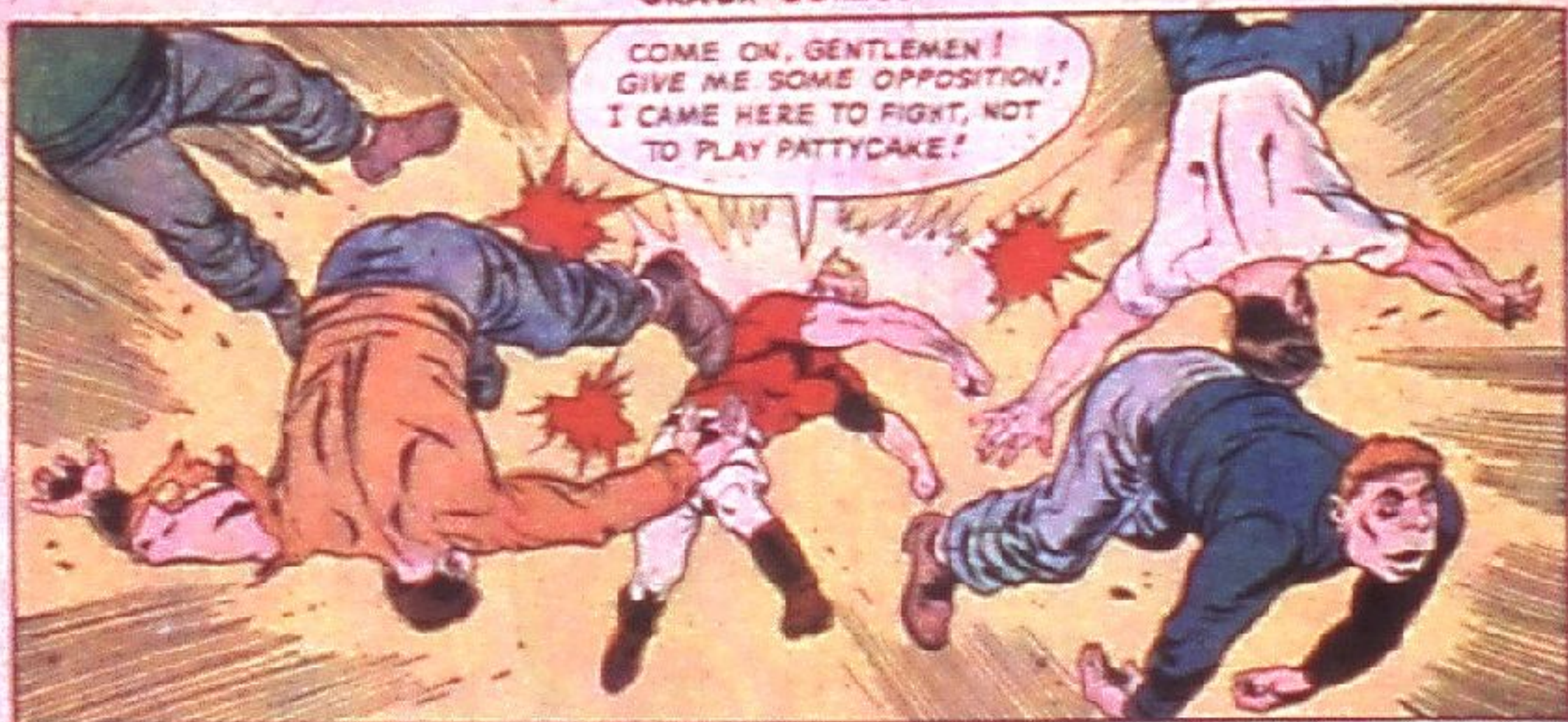
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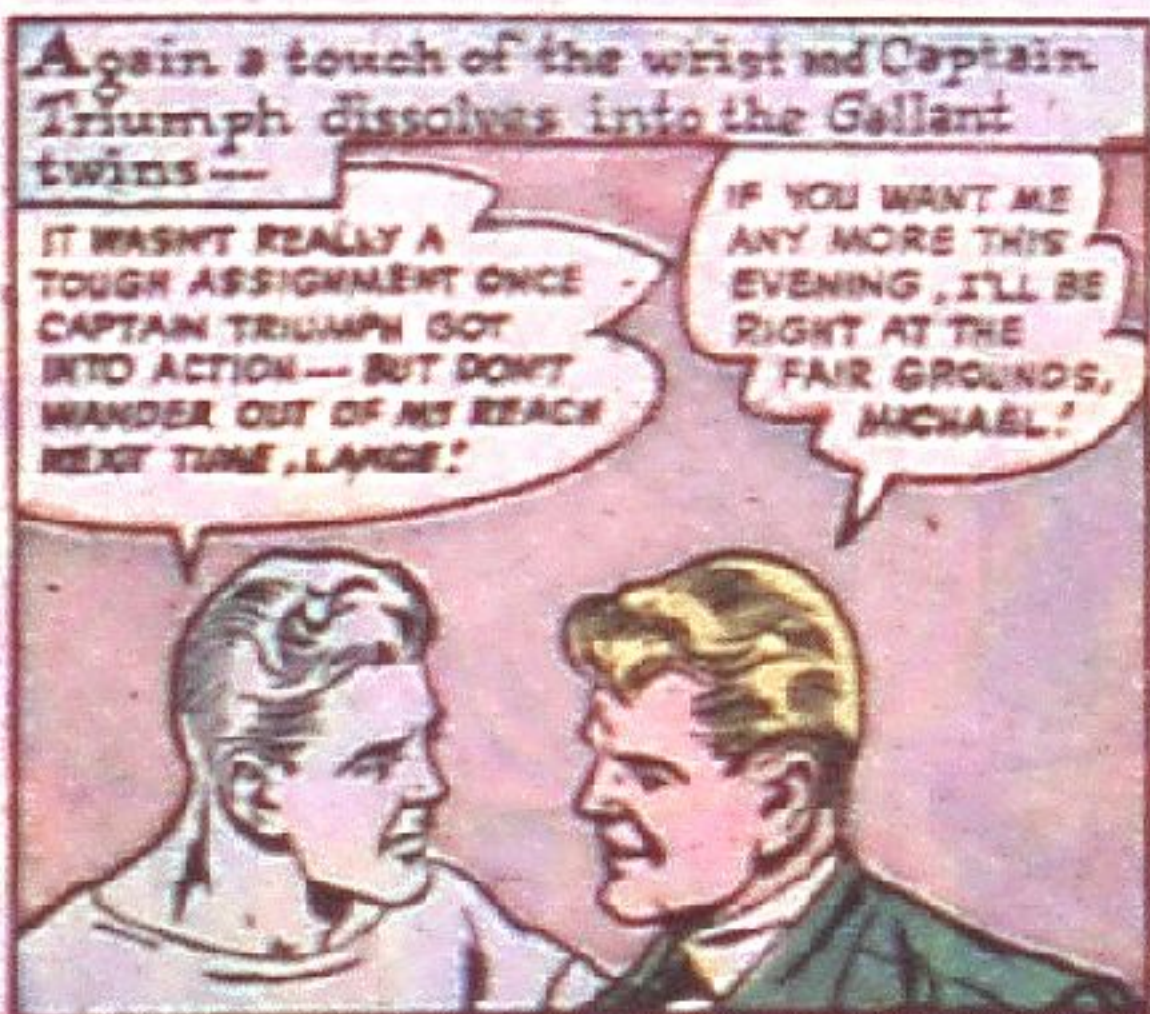
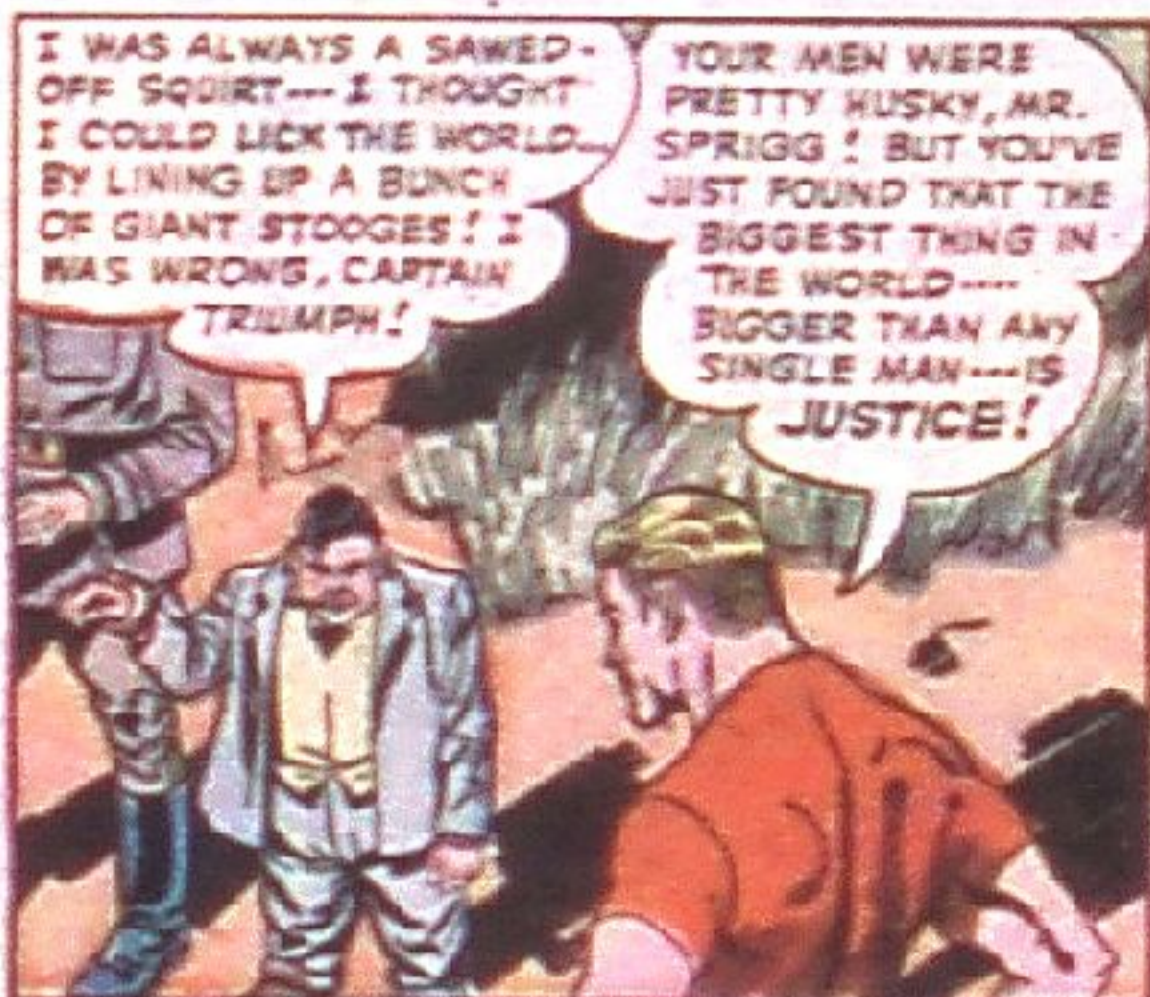
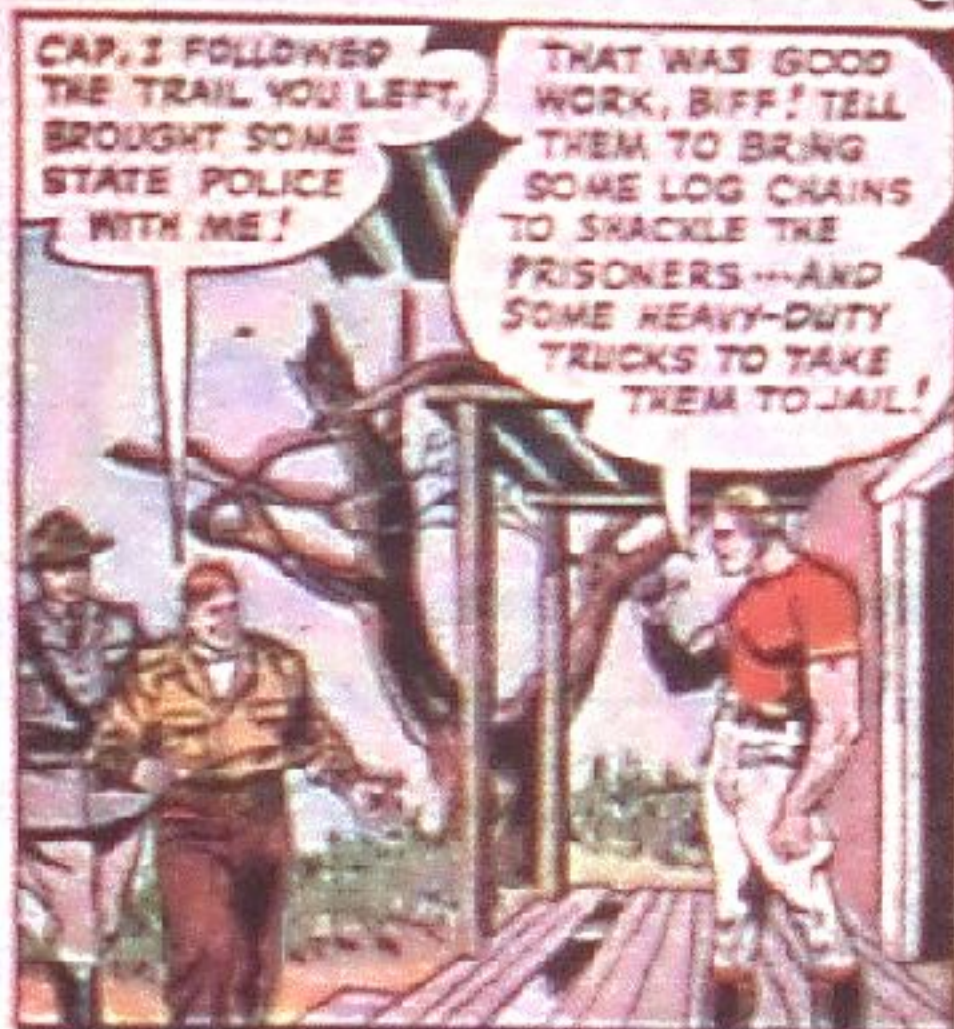
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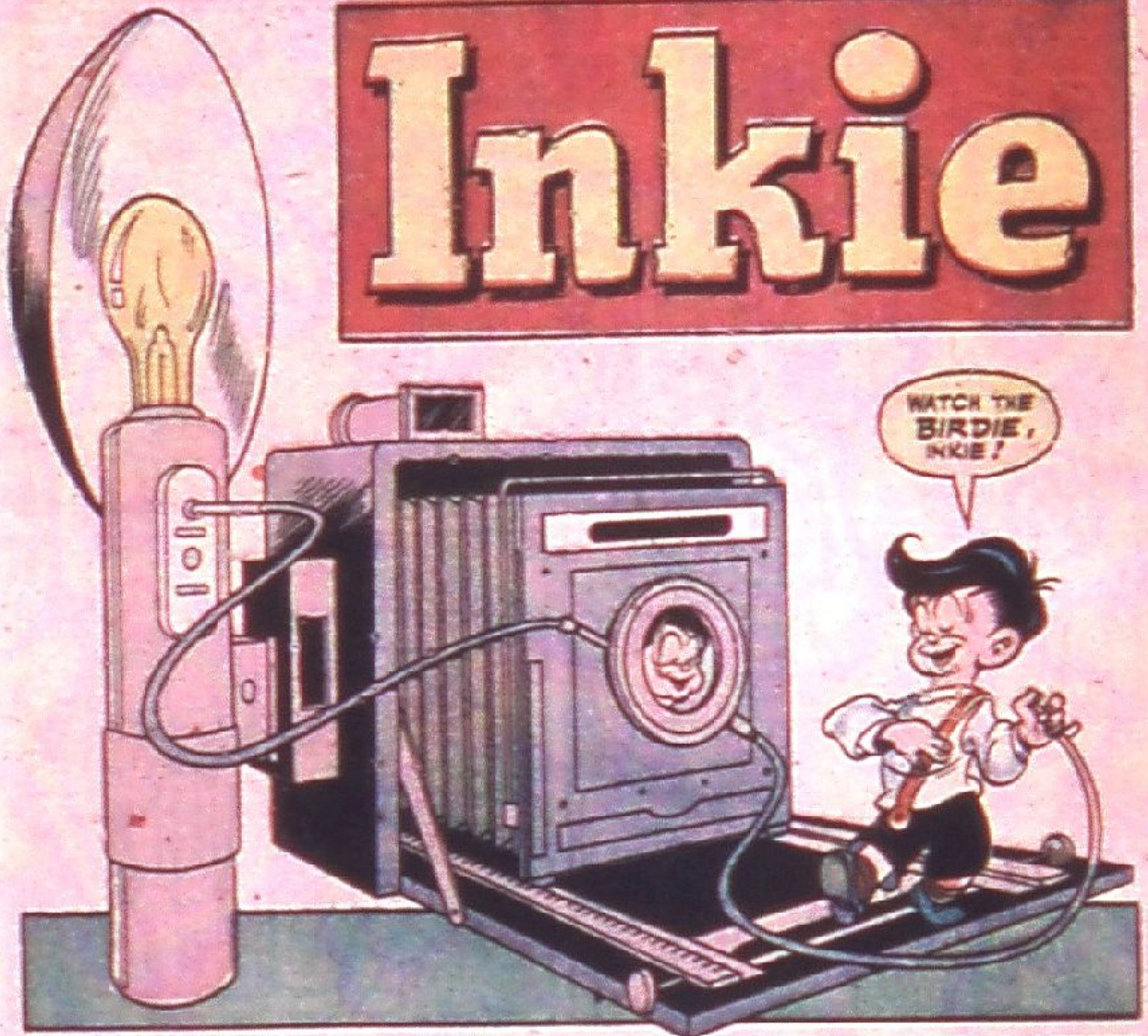
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Inkie



Police headquarters—
HMF! ANOTHER
BANK ROBBERY!

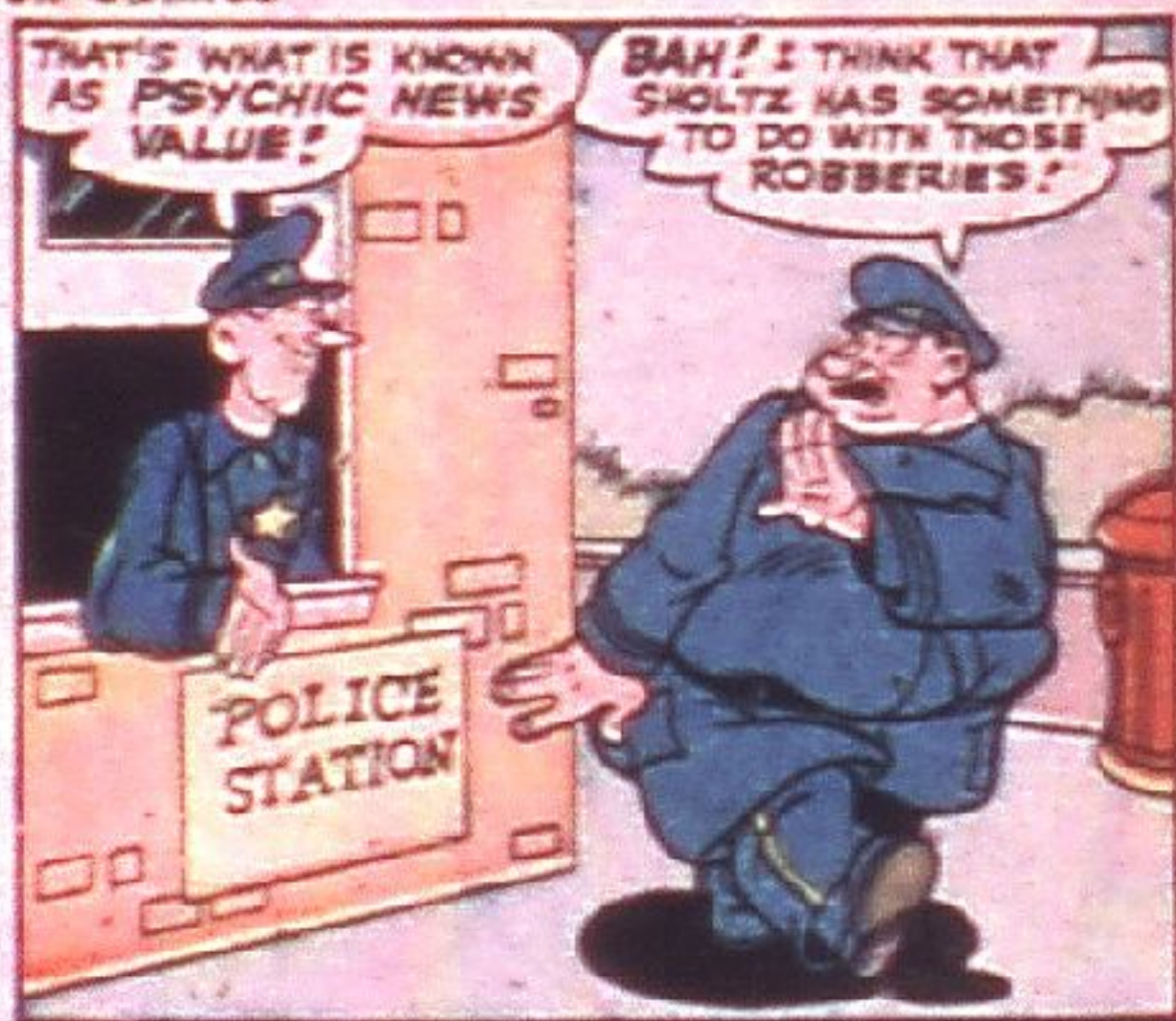
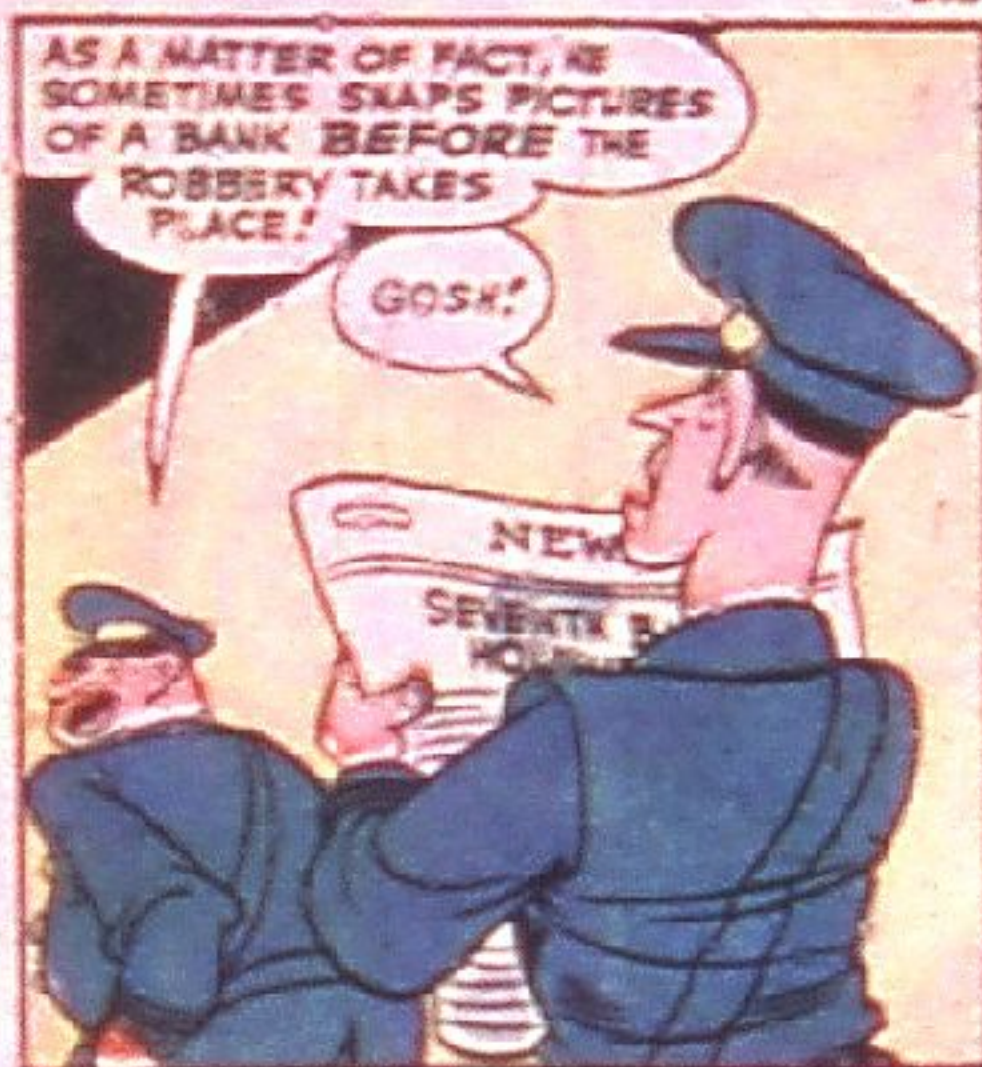
YEAH! AND THAT NEW NEWS
PHOTOGRAPHER, SHUTTER-
BUG SHOLTZ, SNAPPED
THE BANK JUST AS IT
HAPPENED!

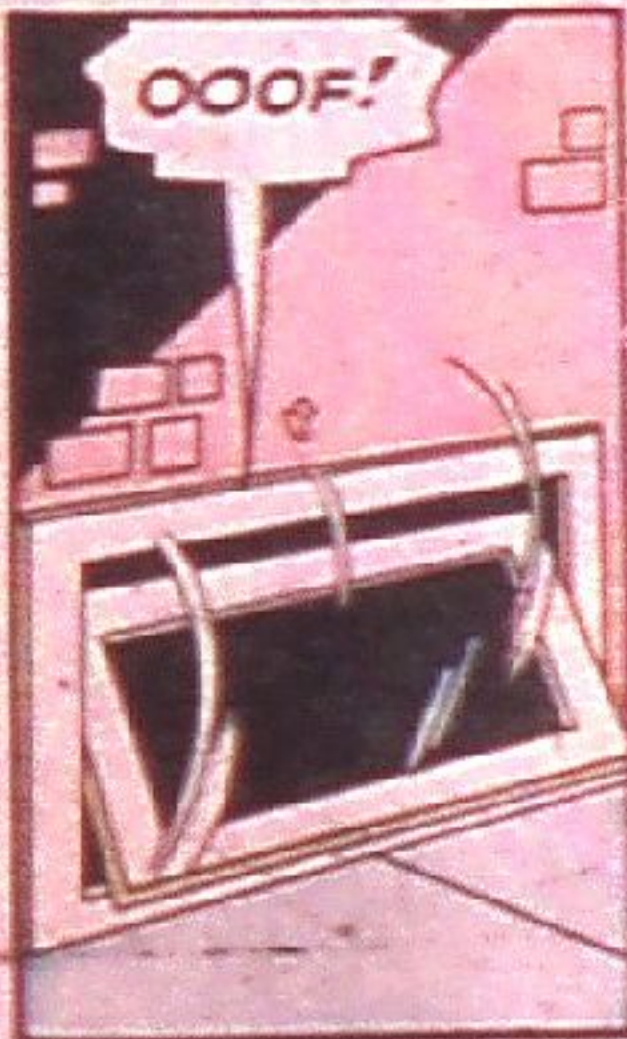
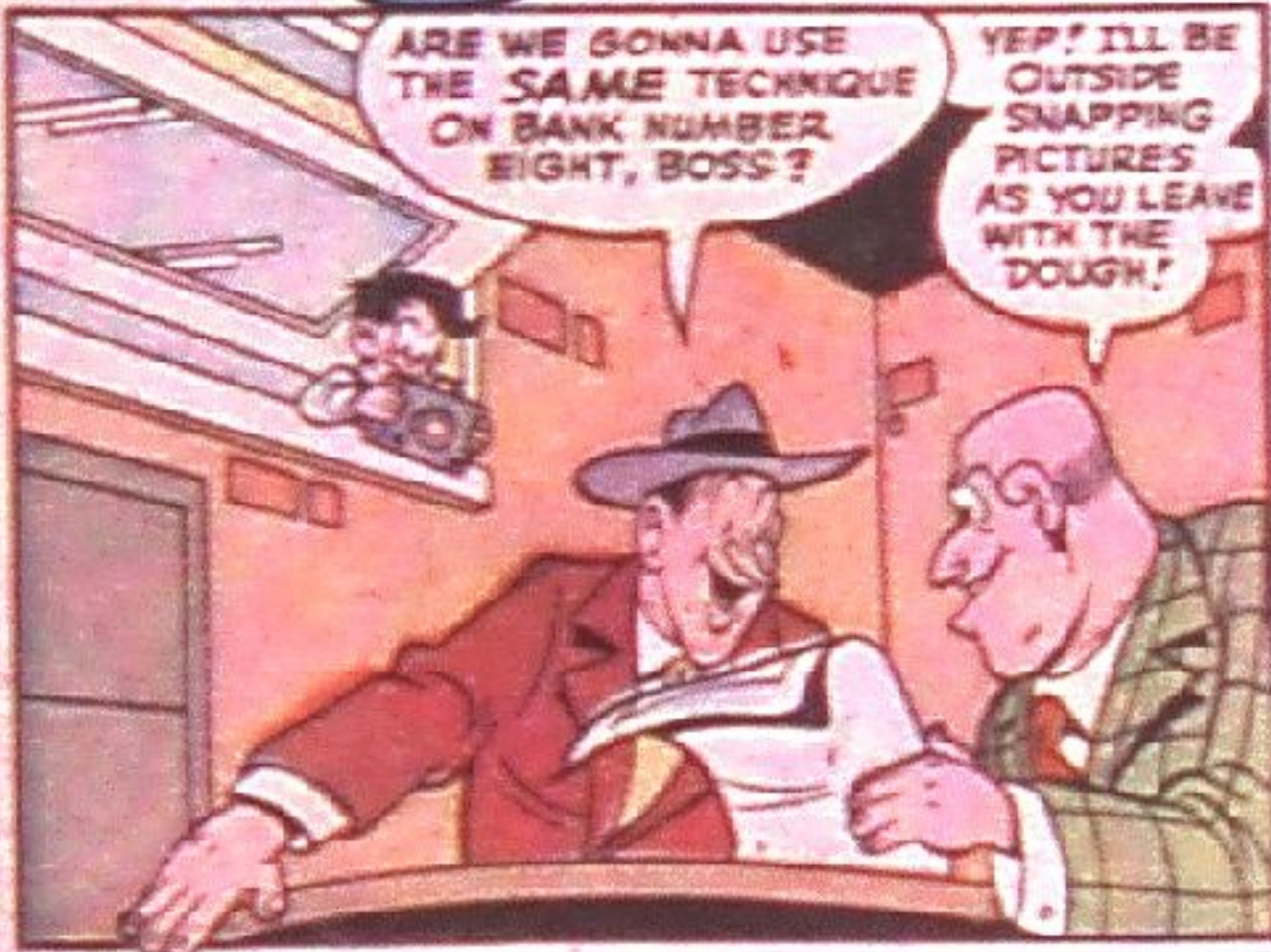


CHIEF—POLICE

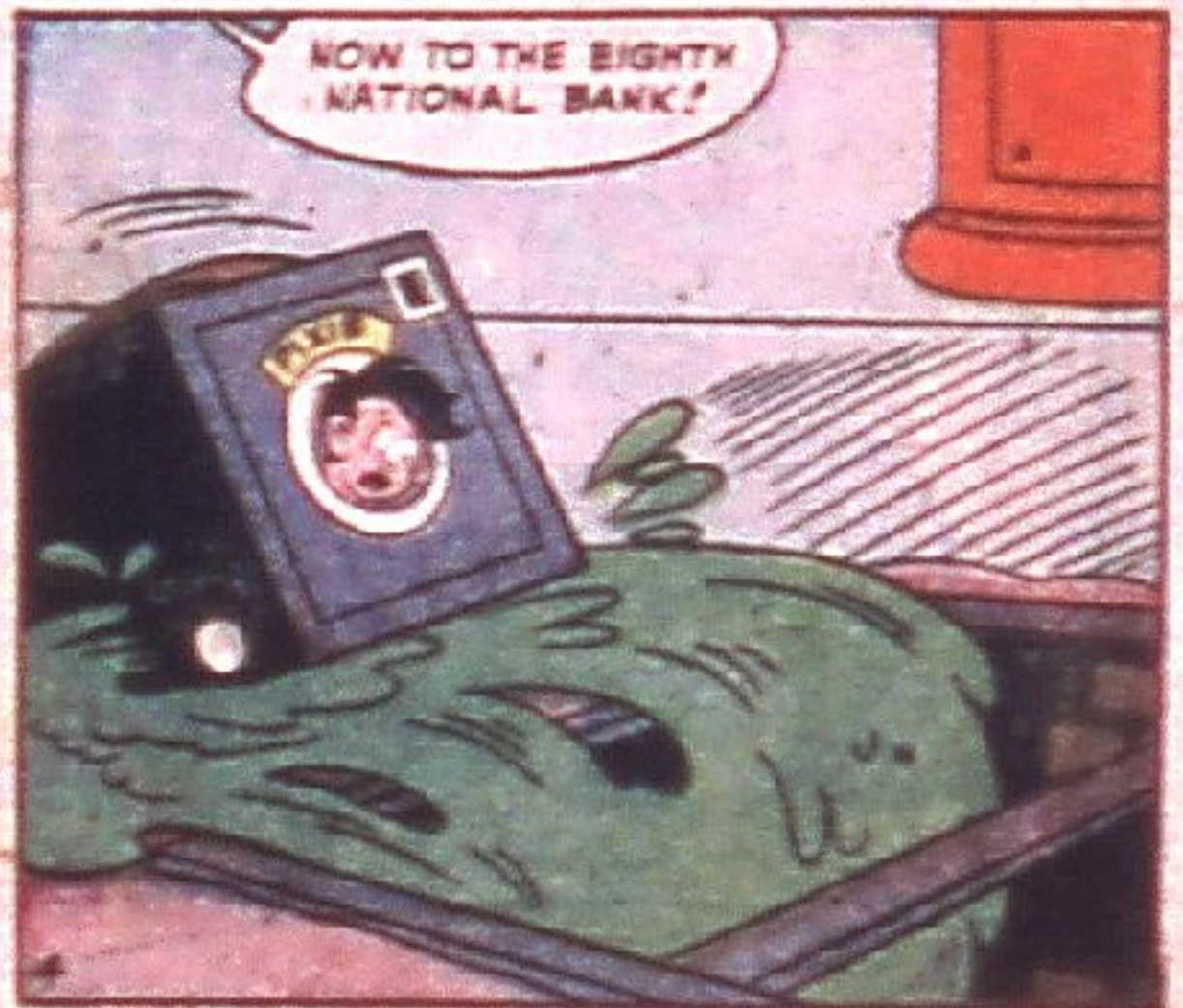
IT'S UNCANNY HOW THAT GUY
ALWAYS MANAGES TO GET
THOSE PICTURES!





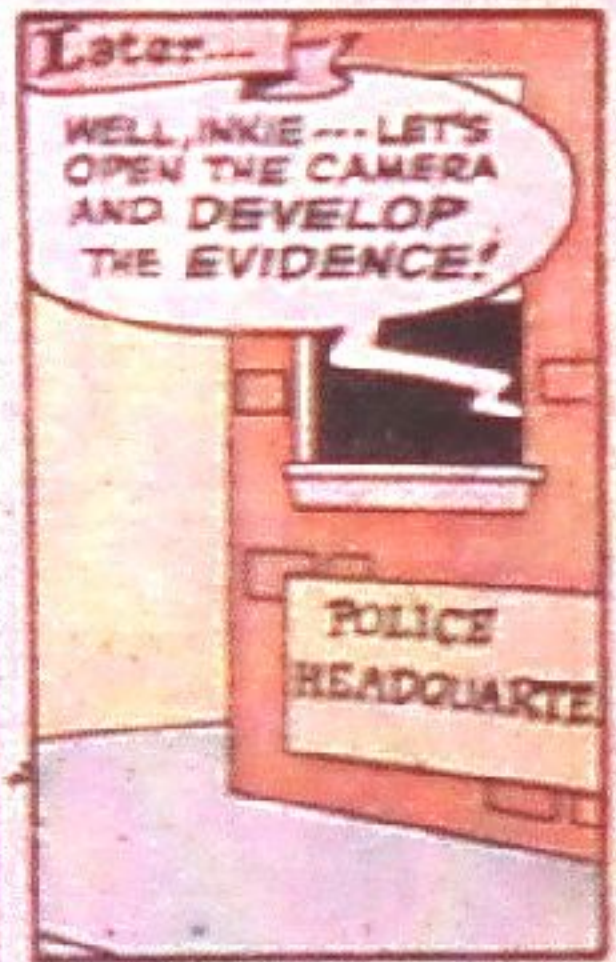


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Molly the Model

I TOLD MOLLY TO MEET ME AT 4TH AND MAIN AND I'D GIVE HER THE SURPRISE OF HER LIFE!

AND MAYBE I WON'T WITH THIS SWELL OUTFIT I JUST RENTED!

NICKEL FOR A CUP O' COFFEE, MISTER?

HERE'S A BUCK, BUD--- HAVE A REAL MEAL!

S'POSE WE ROLL FOR TWO BUCKS OR NOTHIN'?

HUH? O.K., I'LL TAKE A CHANCE!



A few rolls later...

FINE! NOW I'LL ROLL YOU FOR THE WHOLE FOUR BUCKS!

FER MIKE'S SAKE!

TOUGH LUCK! GOT ANY MORE DOUGH?

NO, BUT I GOT A GOOD HAT HERE!

And later...

WELL, YOU WIN THE COAT, TOO, BUT I CAN'T QUIT NOW!

NO, SIR!

And finally...

KEY! HOW ABOUT CAB FARE HOME?

SORRY, I'M SHORT OF SPARE CASH, BUT YOU CAN BORROW MY SUIT!



MOLLY!

SO THAT'S THE OUTFIT YOU WERE BRAGGING ABOUT!

THIS MAN BOTHERING YOU, LADY?

NEVER HAS A MAN BOTHERED ME SO MUCH!

Molly the Model

WELL, DAD, WHILE I'M AWAY THIS WEEK, WHO'S GOING TO WAKE YOU UP IN THE MORNINGS?

NOBODY, THANK GOODNESS!

I NEED A REST AFTER POSING FOR ALL THOSE ADVERTISING CONCERNS!

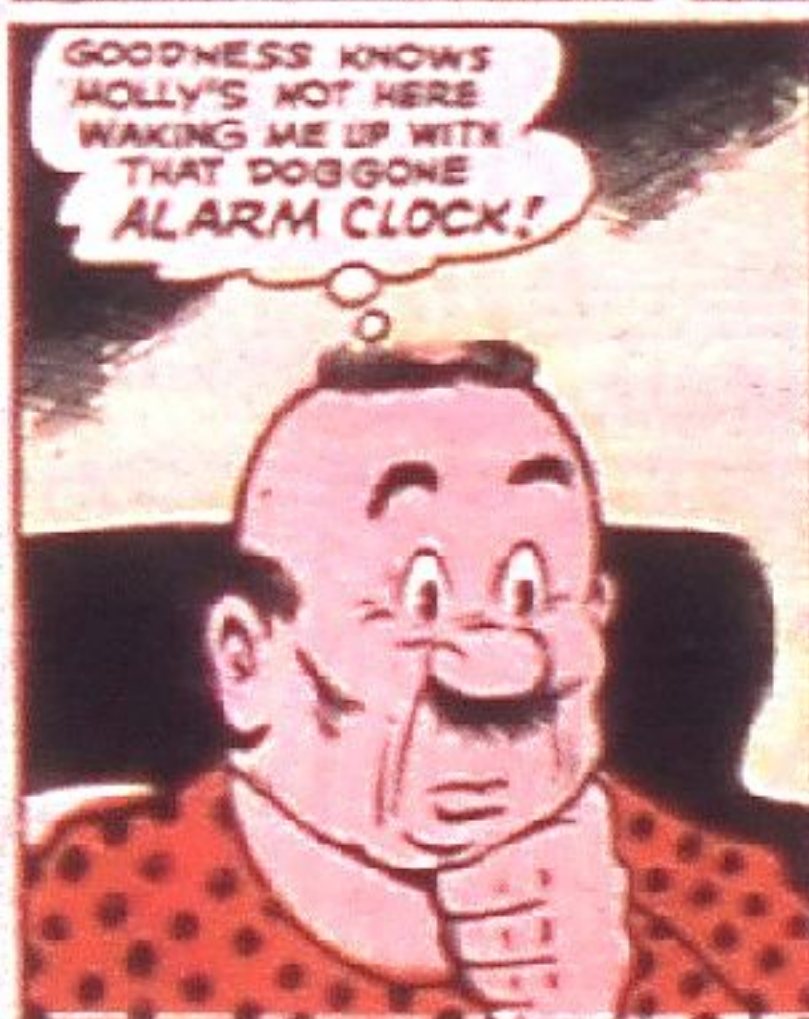
THIS IS ONE WEEK WE'RE BOTH GOING TO GET A GOOD REST!

Next morning...

NOW WHY IN BLAZES SHOULD I WAKE UP SO EARLY THIS MORNING?



THE BOSS SAID TO PASTE THE FIRST SIGN UP HERE!



GOODNESS KNOWS MOLLY'S NOT HERE WAKING ME UP WITH THAT DOGGONE ALARM CLOCK!



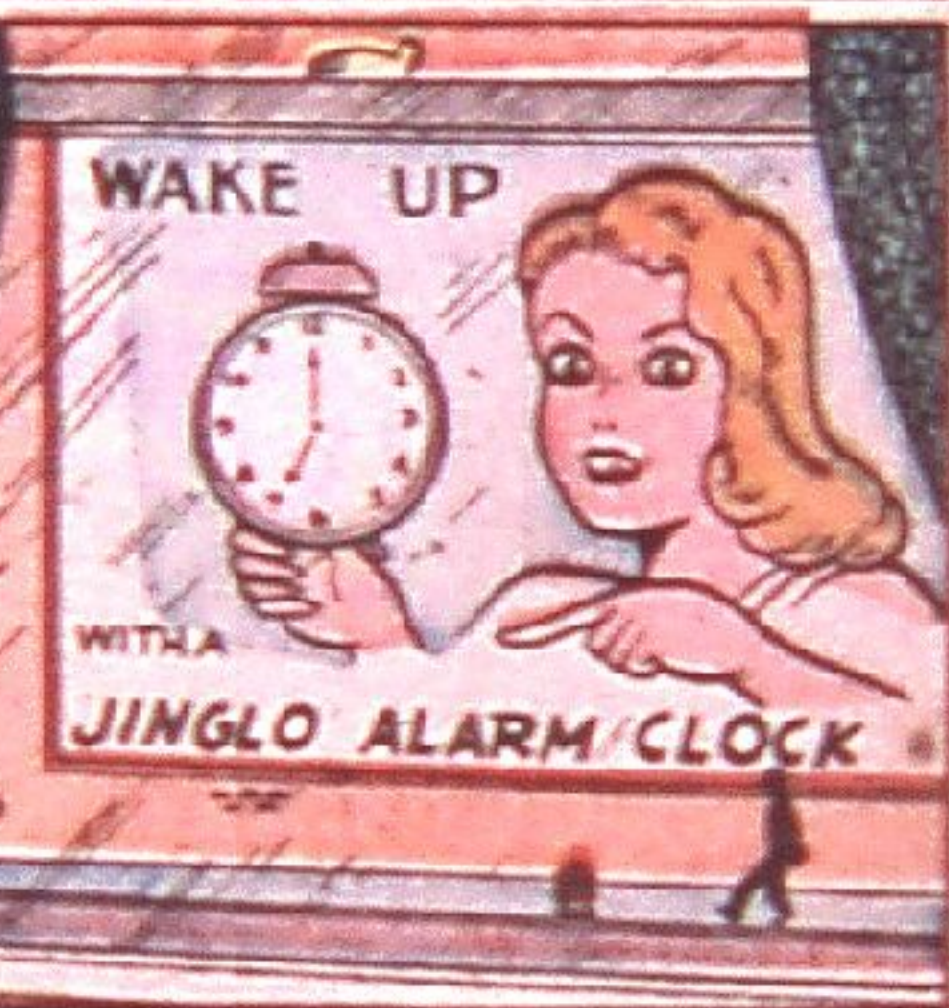
SHE'S A HUNDRED MILES AWAY FROM HERE AND I CAN SNOOZE AS LONG AS I PLEASE!



IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D THINK THERE WAS SOMEONE STARIN' IN AT ME THROUGH THAT WINDOW!



MOLLY... SO HELP ME... ON A BILL BOARD!



WAKE UP

WITH A

JINGLO ALARM CLOCK

HACK O'HARA



A cabby's life can be full of queer happenings! But none could be stranger than Hack O'Hara's encounter with Lancelot Triche---the man who could be in a dozen places at once!

SO LONG, GABBY! SEE YOU SOON!

THEY WON'T GRAB ME AGAIN---GOOD-BYE, YOU MUGGS!

OKAY, SID! LET'S GO!

WHAT'S THE IDEA, GABBY? GOING TO GO STRAIGHT FOR A CHANGE? HAW! HAW!

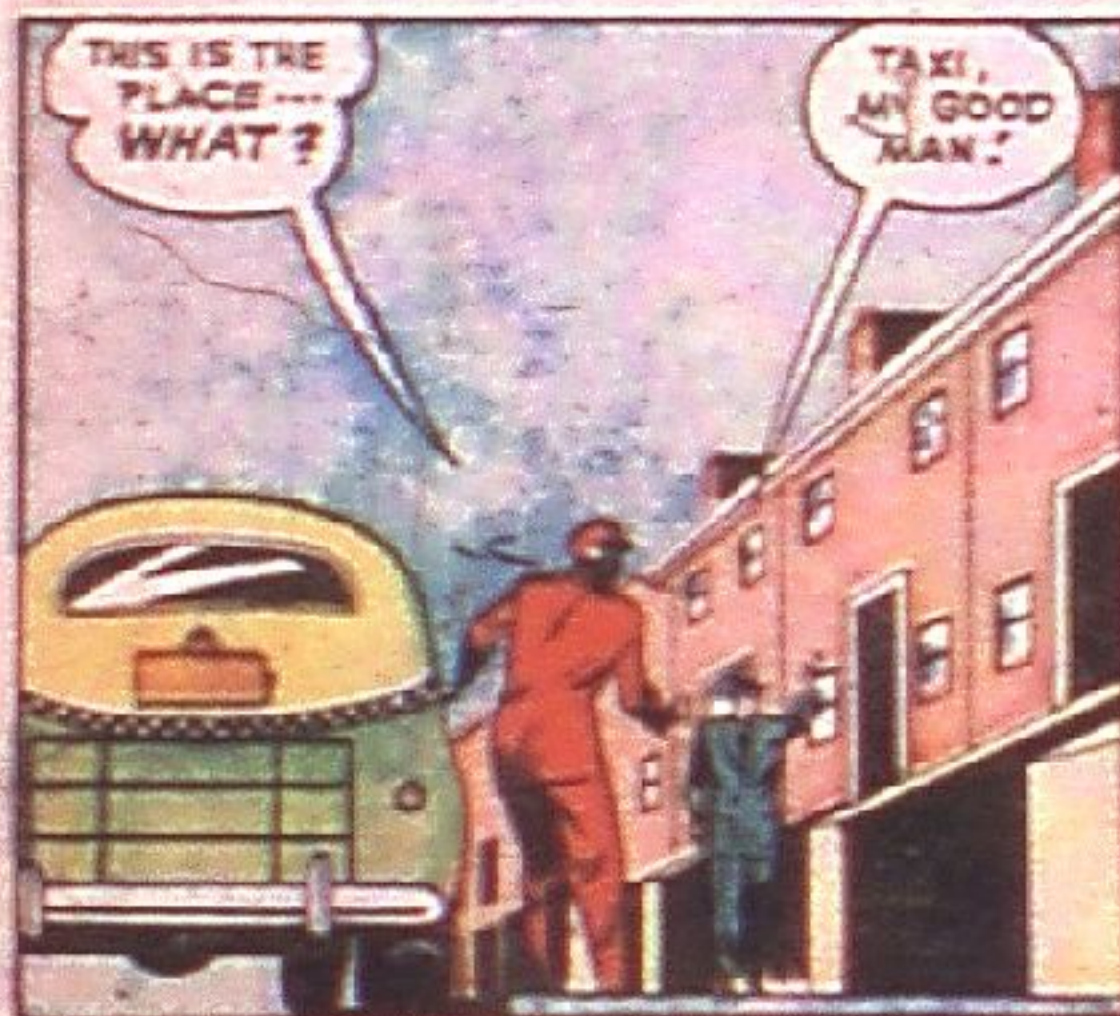
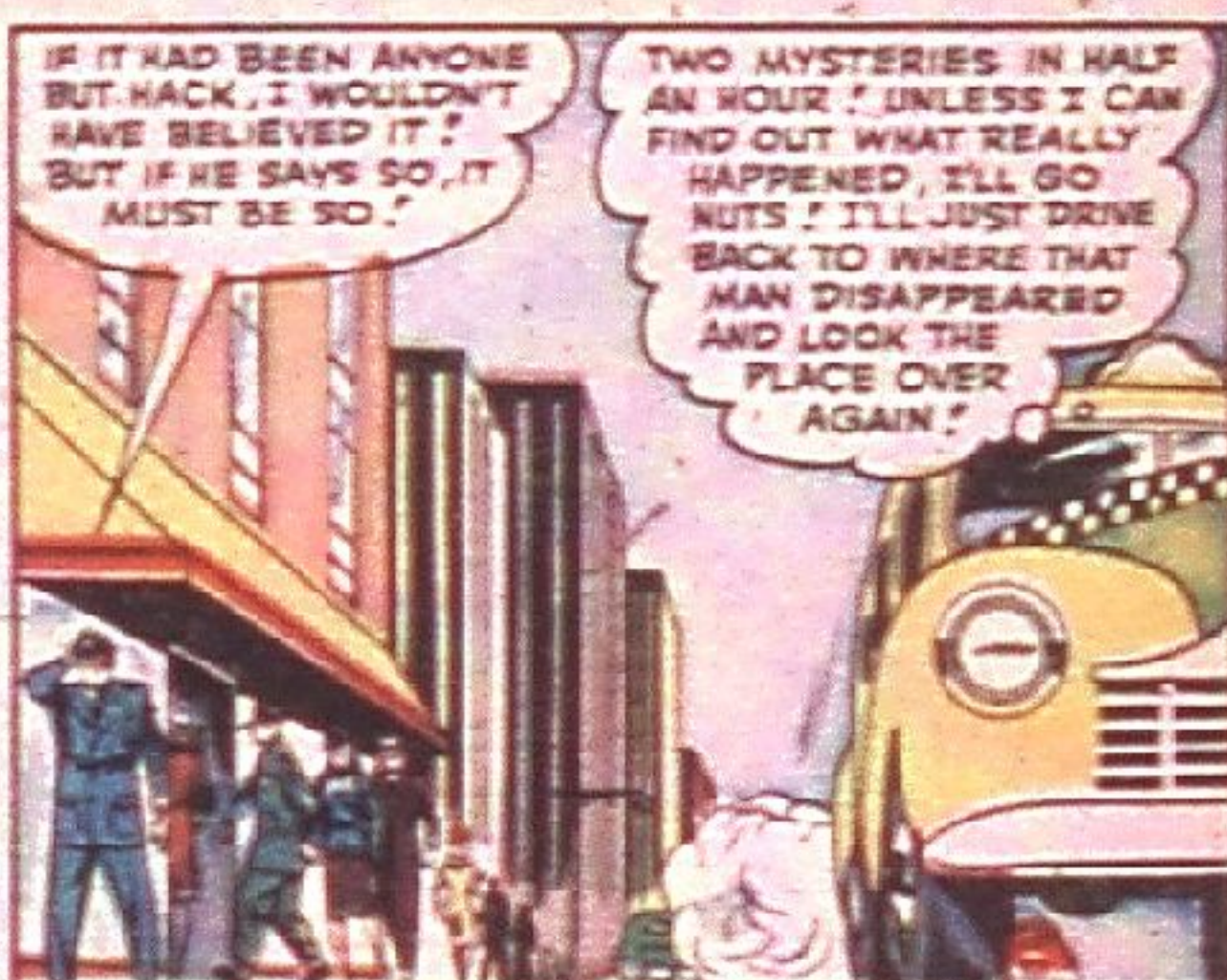
I CAN'T GO ANY FASTER, GABBY---THAT TAXI IN FRONT IS BLOCKING THE WAY!

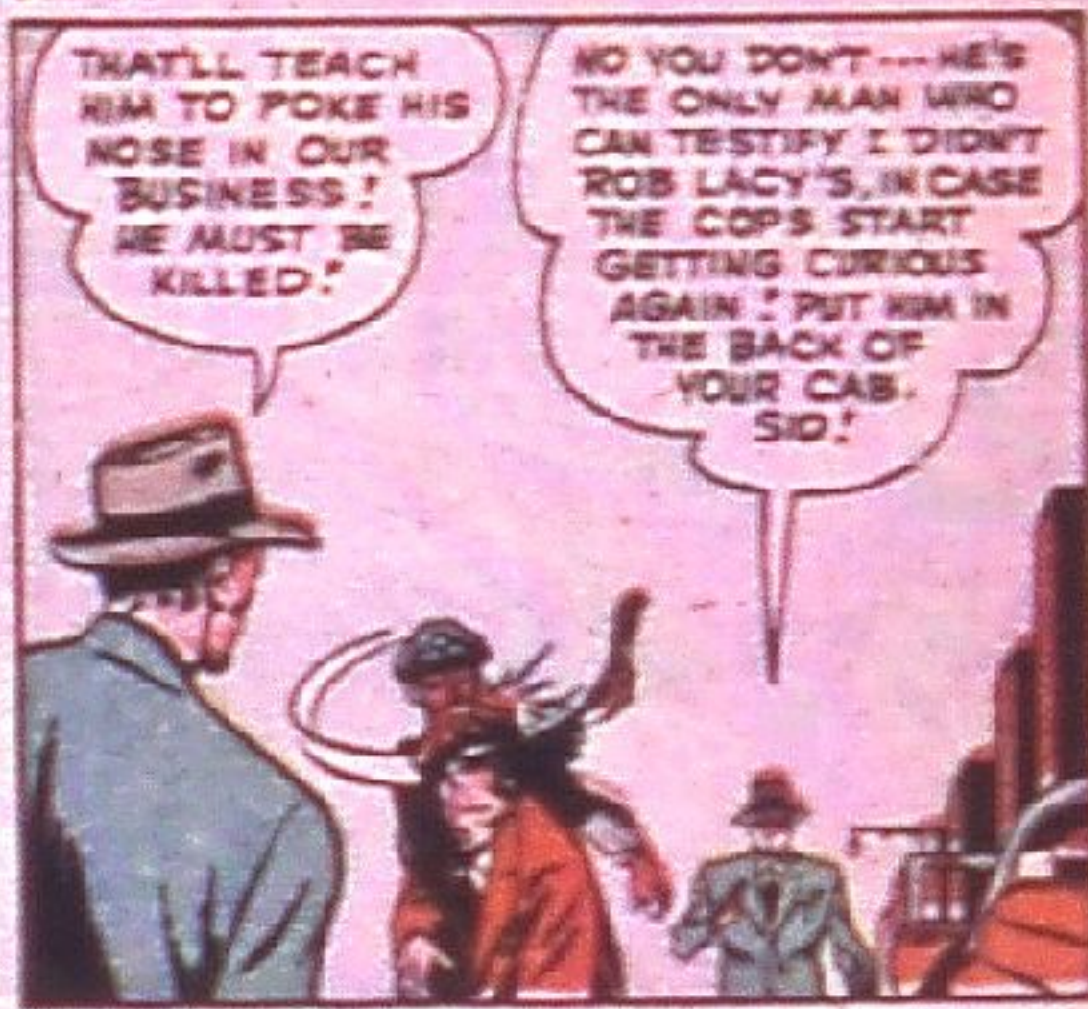
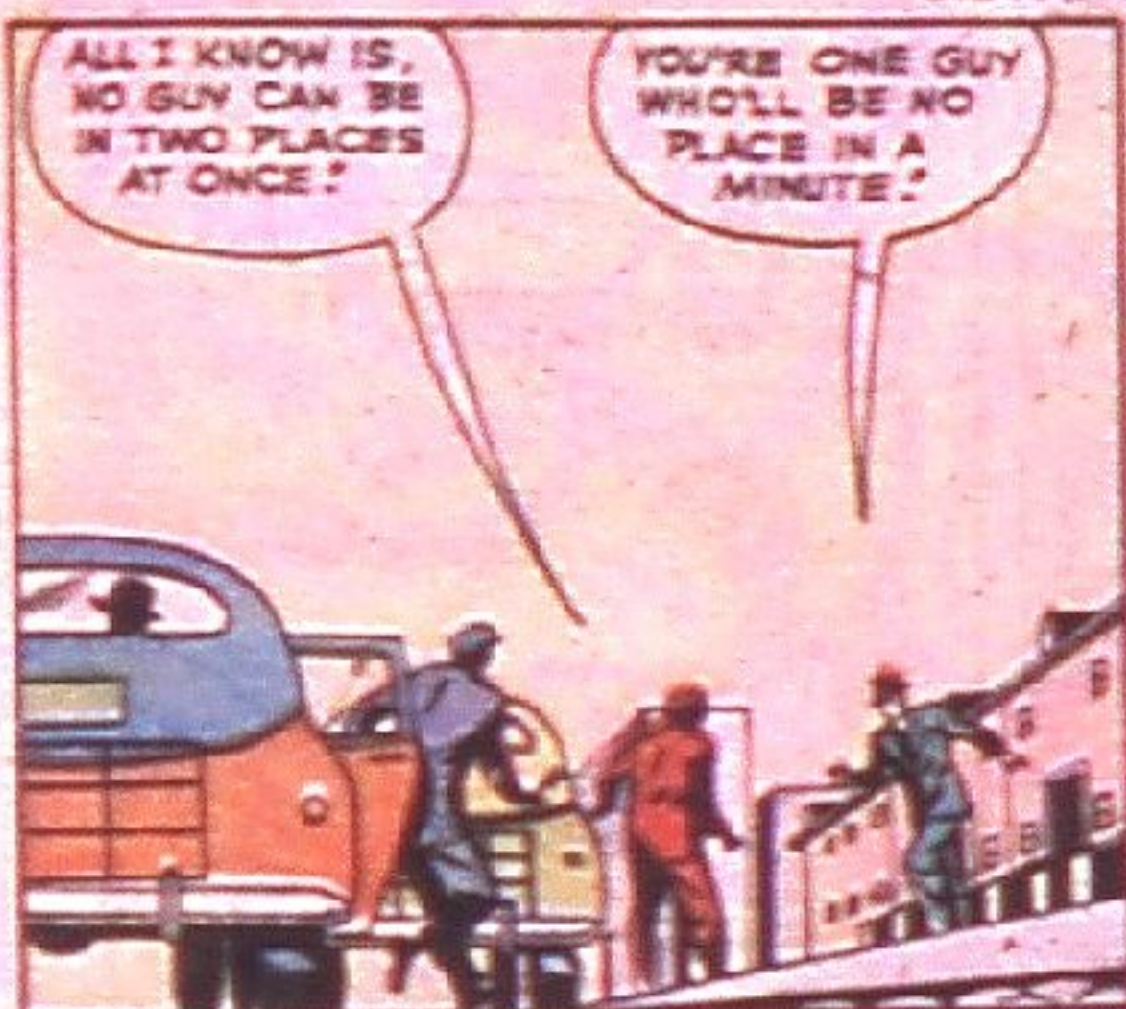
THEN CROWD HIM OFF THE STREET! THOSE MUGS CAN LAUGH IF THEY WANT TO, BUT FROM NOW ON NOBODY CAN TOUCH ME!

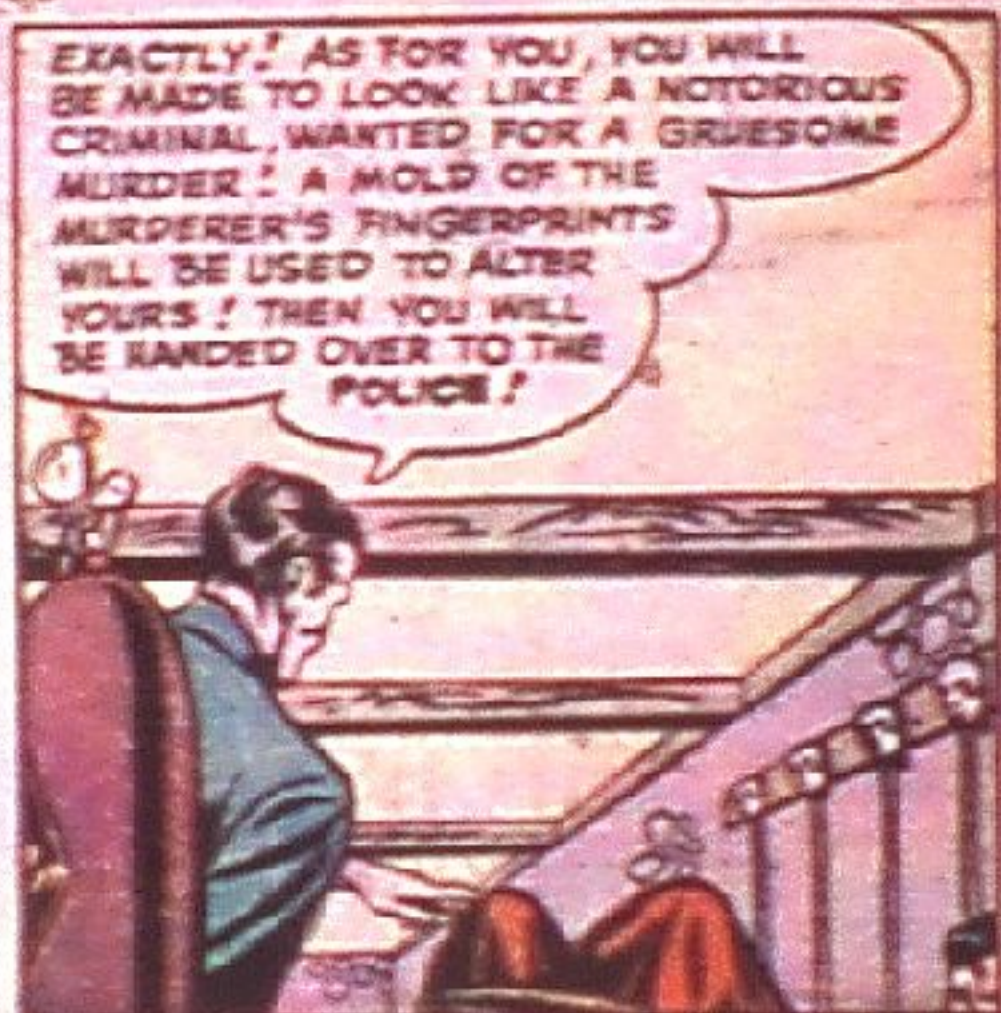


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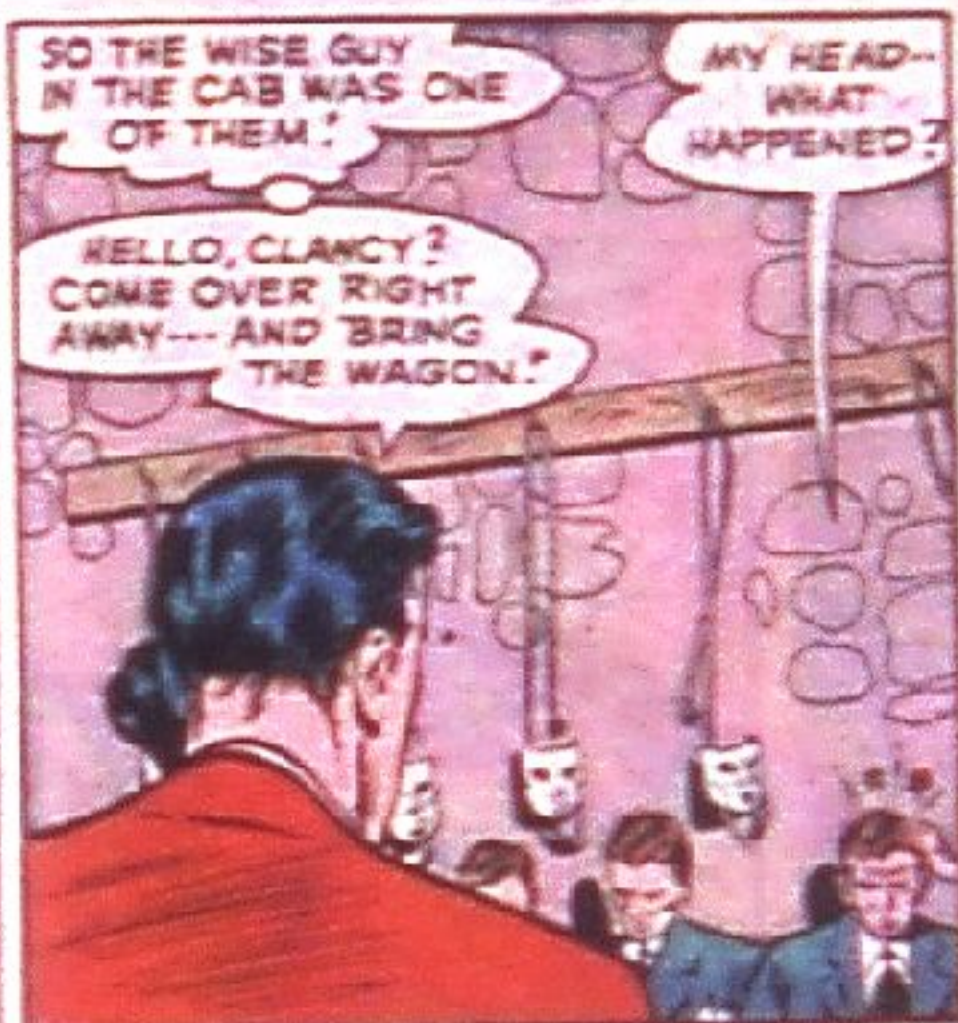
CLANCY WON'T BELIEVE THIS UNTIL HE SEES IT! BUT---



IF I TURN THEM OVER TO THE COPS LIKE THIS, THEY'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO CONVICT THEM!



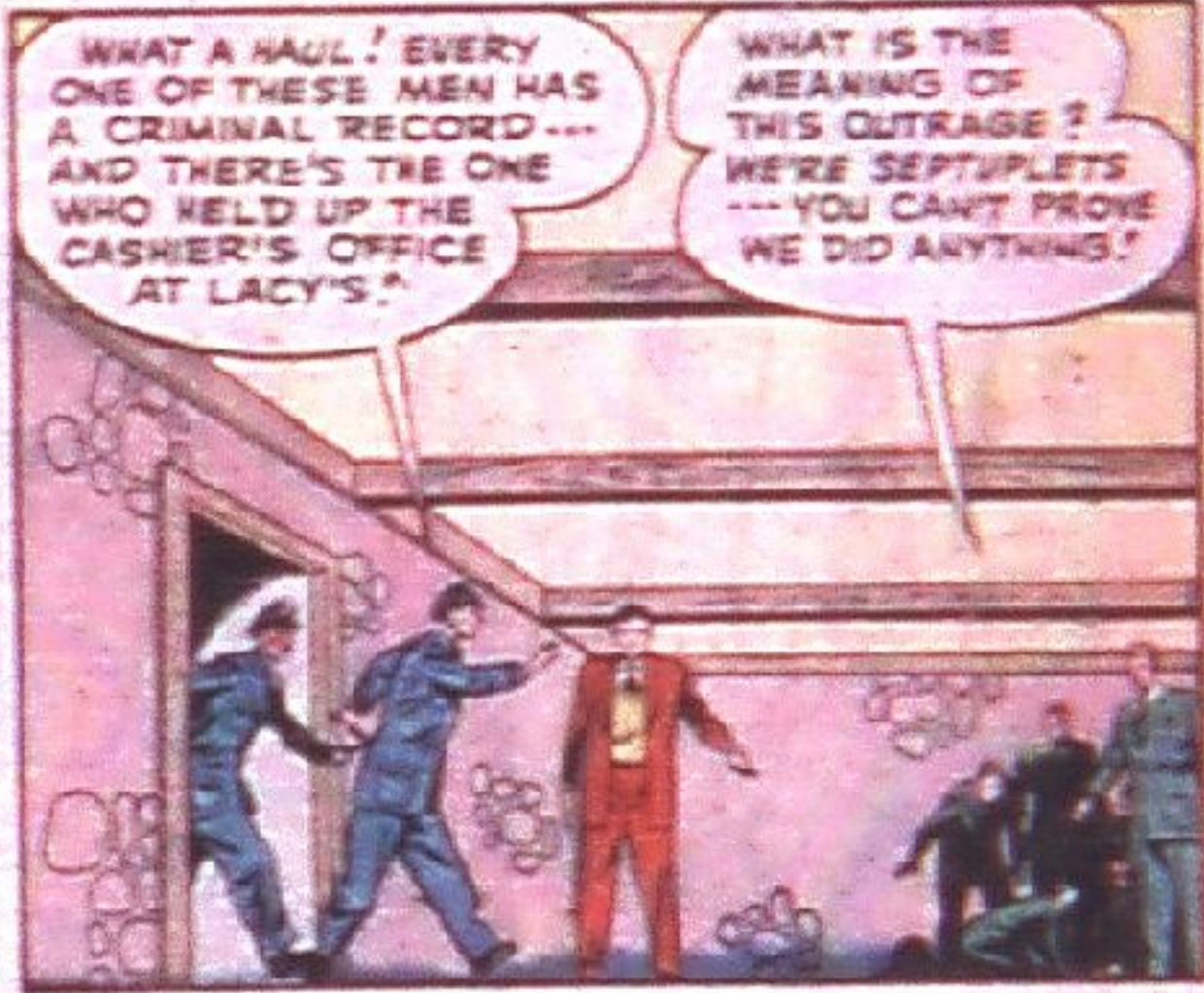
THEY'RE ALL GUILTY OF CRIMES --- I'LL JUST CHANGE THEM BACK TO WHAT THEY WERE! ALL BUT THE BOSS --- THERE ISN'T ANY MASK FOR HIM!



SO THE WISE GUY IN THE CAB WAS ONE OF THEM!

MY HEAD-- WHAT HAPPENED?

HELLO, CLANCY? COME OVER RIGHT AWAY--- AND BRING THE WAGON!



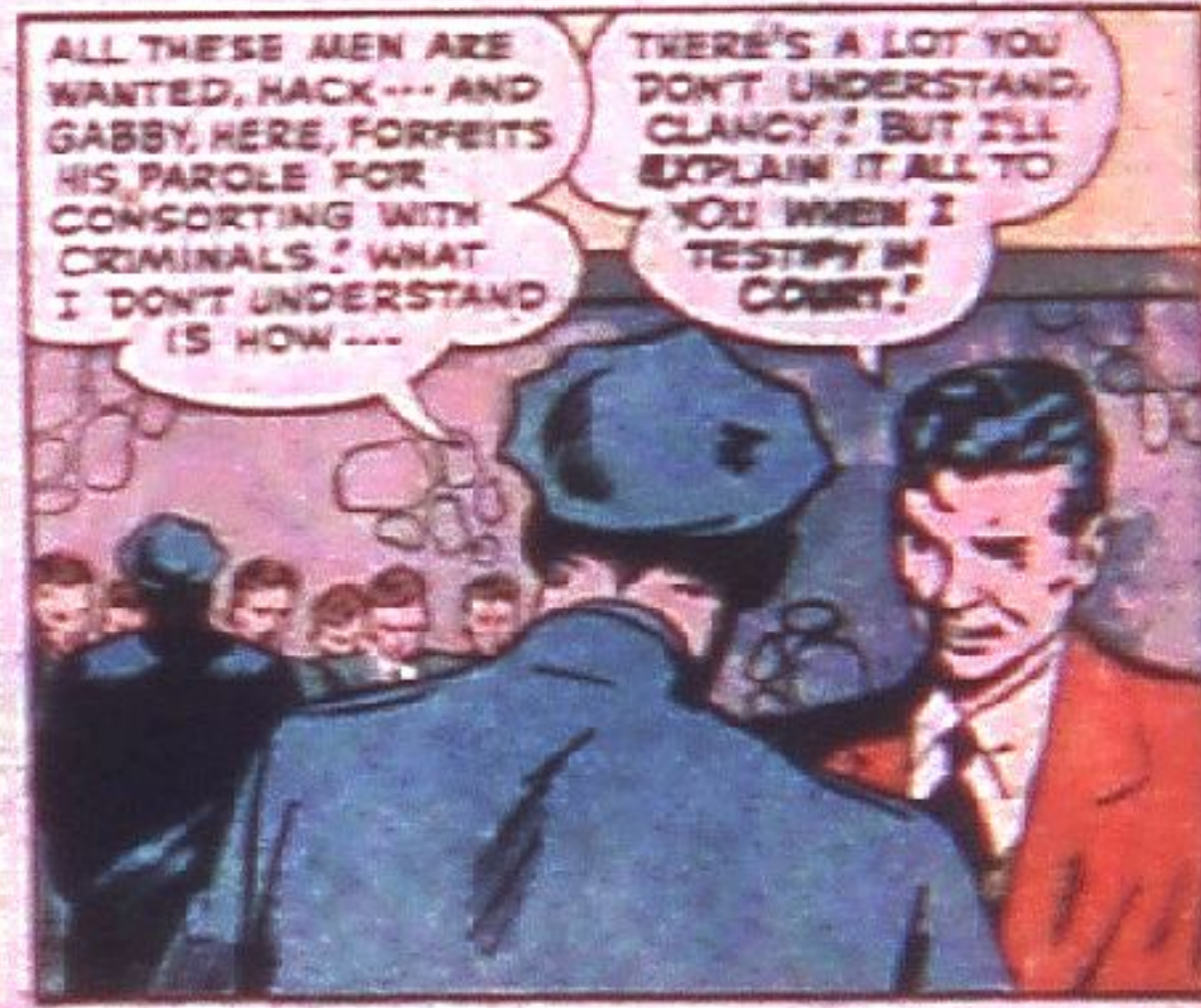
WHAT A HAUL! EVERY ONE OF THESE MEN HAS A CRIMINAL RECORD --- AND THERE'S THE ONE WHO HELD UP THE CASHIER'S OFFICE AT LACY'S!

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS OUTRAGE? WE'RE SEPTUPLETS --- YOU CAN'T PROVE WE DID ANYTHING!



TAKE A LOOK IN THE MIRROR BEFORE YOU SAY ANY MORE!

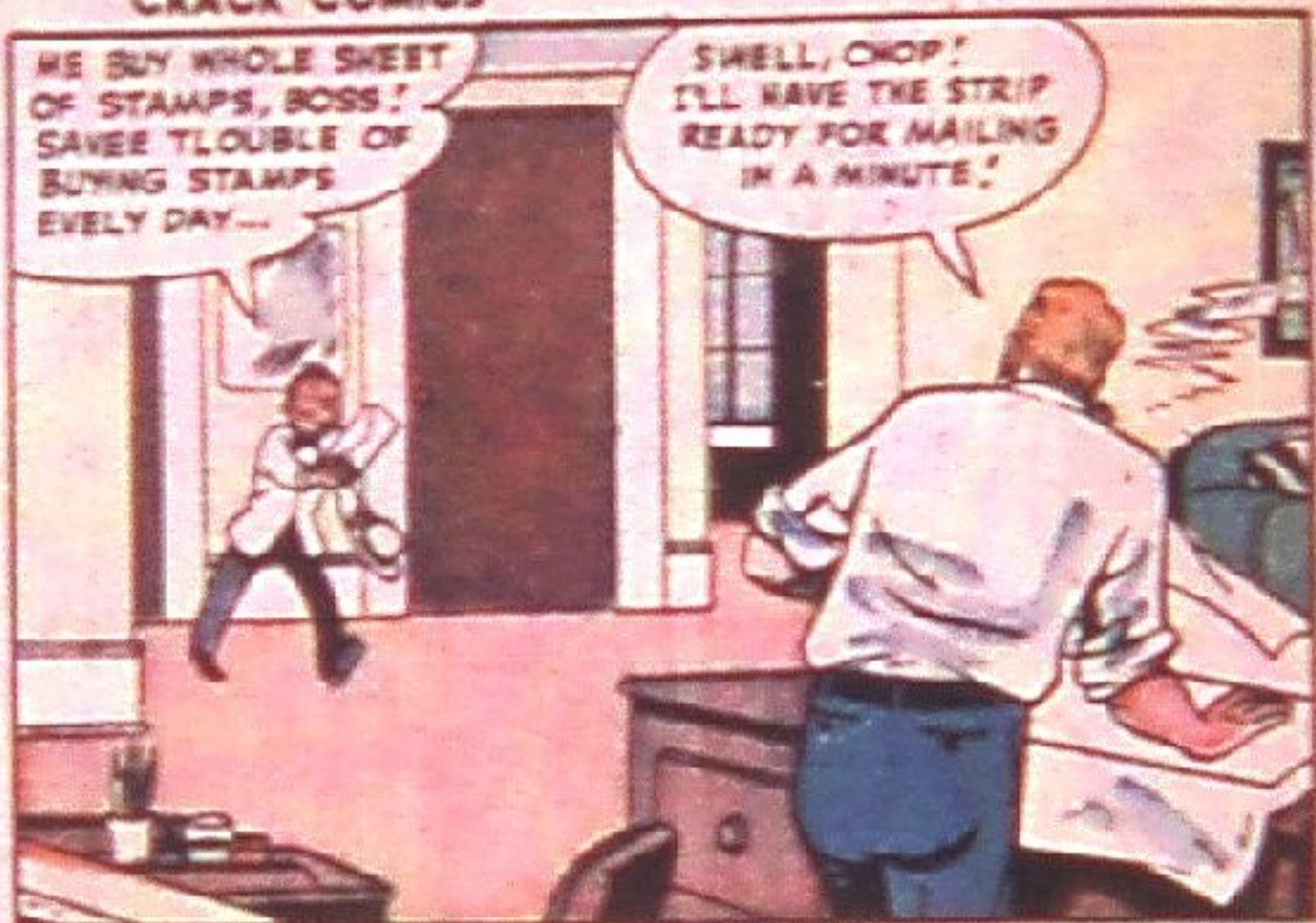
YEAH, WE'RE SEVEN BROTHERS WHO LOOK EXACTLY... HUH? LOOK --- HE'S CHANGED OUR FACES!



ALL THESE MEN ARE WANTED, HACK --- AND GABBY, HERE, FORFEITS HIS PAROLE FOR CONSORTING WITH CRIMINALS! WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND IS HOW ---

THERE'S A LOT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, CLANCY! BUT I'LL EXPLAIN IT ALL TO YOU WHEN I TESTIFY IN COURT!

Pen M L E R







IT'S JUST A RUNCH, BUT I THINK THOSE HOODS WERE LOOKING FOR ME AND THOSE STAMPS!



JUMPING INKSPOTS! I WAS RIGHT!

GUGGLE-BRGLPH--



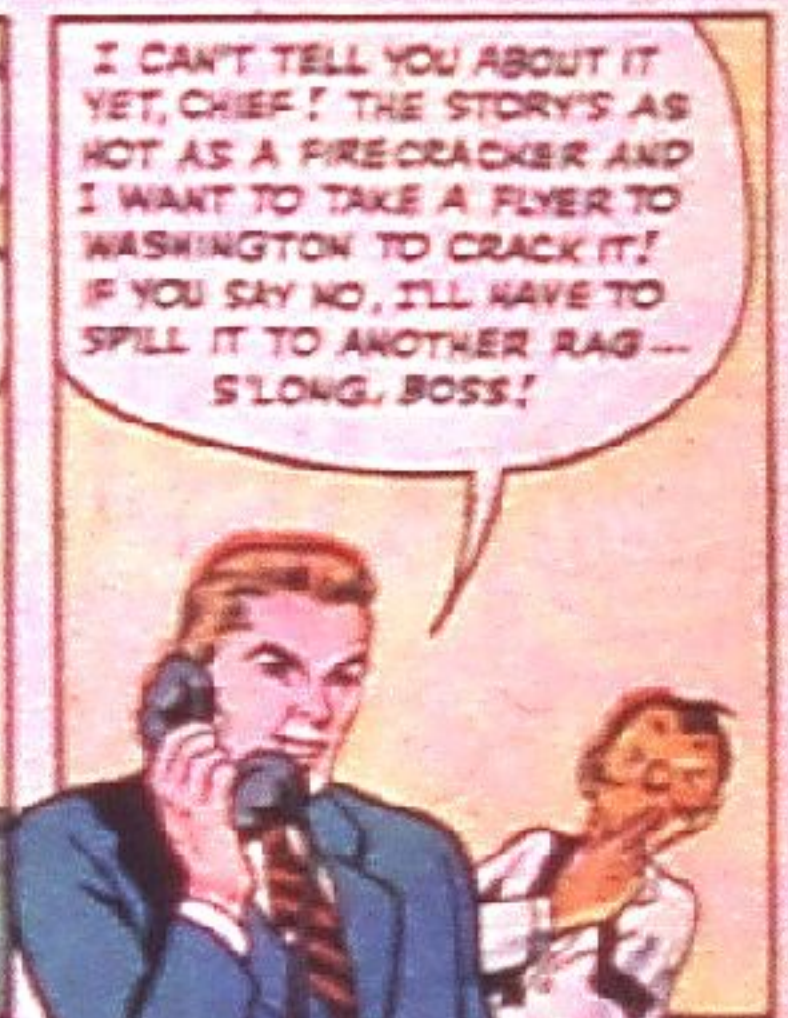
TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED, CHOP!

MEN SNEAK IN DOOR, GLAB CHOP AND KNOCKEY DAYLIGHTS OUT! ALLEE TIME THEY SAY PLENTY BAD WORDS AND LOOKEE FOR STAMPS!



NO QUESTION ABOUT IT, CHOP! THOSE STAMPS WERE SOLD TO YOU BY ACCIDENT!

OH, WOE IS ME! WELLY SAD WHEN FELLA GET KICKED AROUND FOR THLEE-CENT STAMP!



I CAN'T TELL YOU ABOUT IT YET, CHIEF! THE STORY'S AS HOT AS A FIRECRACKER AND I WANT TO TAKE A FLYER TO WASHINGTON TO CRACK IT! IF YOU SAY NO, I'LL HAVE TO SPILL IT TO ANOTHER RAG-- S'LONG, BOSS!



Washington, D.C., a short time later--

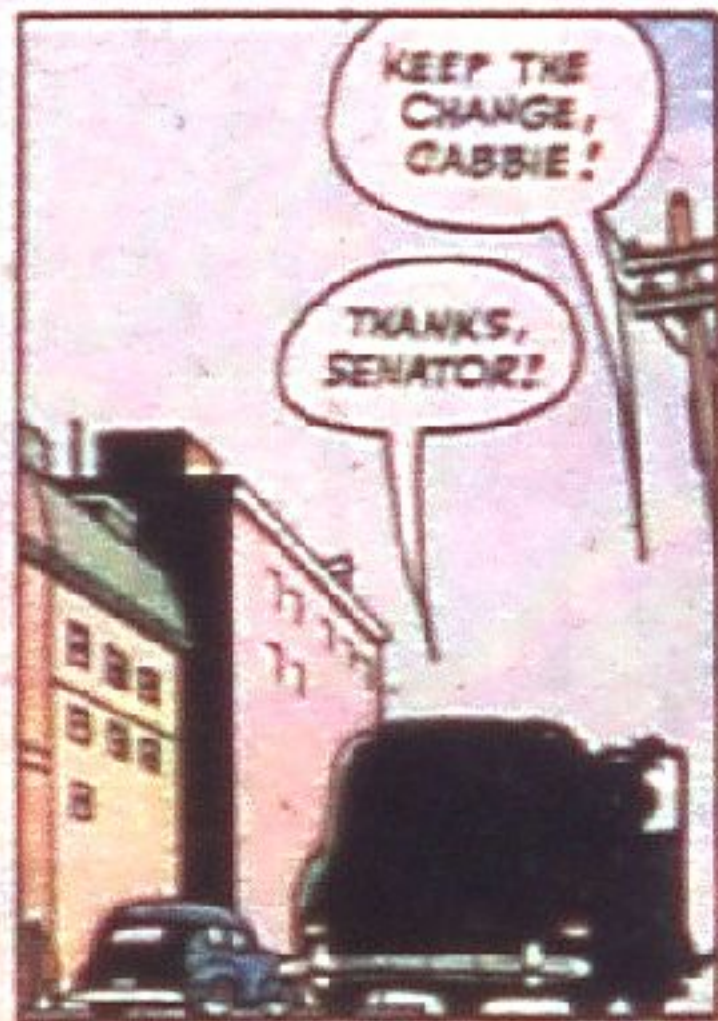
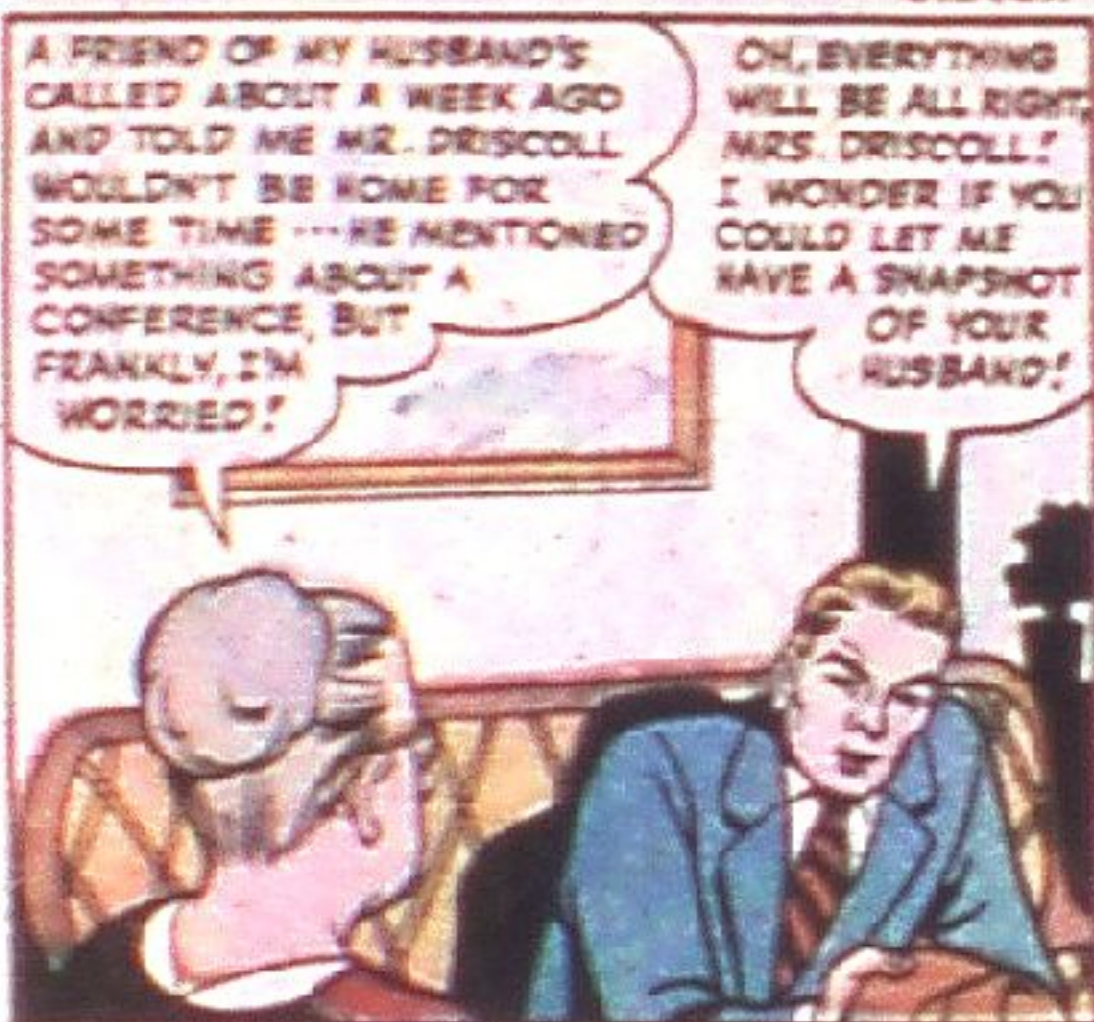
WE DON'T DO BUSINESS THAT WAY, MILLER! HOWEVER, WE WILL SUPERVISE CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THIS CASE, IN ANY EVENT-- WE'LL HAVE MEN COVERING YOU AT EVERY STEP AND THEY'LL MAKE ANY ARRESTS NECESSARY!

IT'S A DEAL, SIR!



THIS MUST BE THE CHIEF PRINTING INSPECTOR'S DRISCOLL'S HOME I OUGHT TO GET A FEW SHARP POINTERS FROM HIM!

CRACK COMICS





FLOOGY

The
FIJI

OWW!

"HIC! CUT IT OUT! HIC!
I ASKED YOU TO HELP
ME GET RID OF THESE
HICCUPS, NOT TO
KILL ME!"

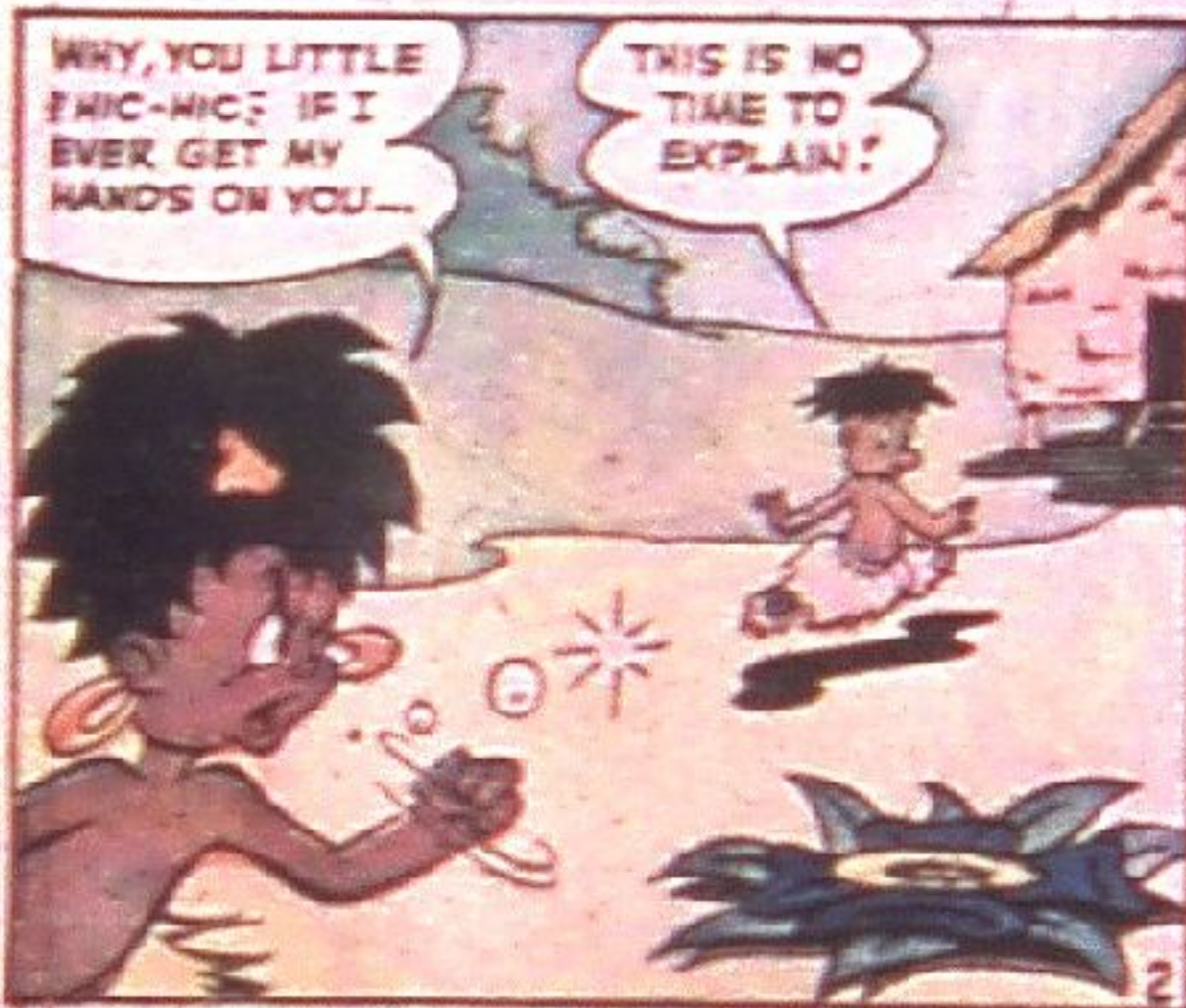
I'LL NEVER
GET ANOTHER
CHANCE LIKE
THIS AGAIN!

DON'T WORRY,
FLOOGY, WE'LL BEAT
THOSE HICCUPS YET!
JUST TAKE A DEEP
BREATH AND HOLD
IT!---

**HIC
HIC**

--- UNTIL
I COUNT
TO TEN!
ONE ---
TWO ---





LET'S SEE... HALLUCINATION'S...
HAM N' SWEETS... MUM! TAKE
A BIG HAM, SMOTHER IN PINEAPPLE
JUICE, SURROUND WITH JUICY
SWEET POTATOES... YUM...



OK... HERE IT IS...
HICCUPS! THE ONLY
TREATMENT FOR HICCUPS
IS A GOOD SCARE!
OK, BOY!



I'VE BEEN SAVING THIS,
BUT I'LL GIVE IT UP FOR
FLOOGY'S SAKE!



THIS'LL SCARE
HIM, ALL RIGHT!



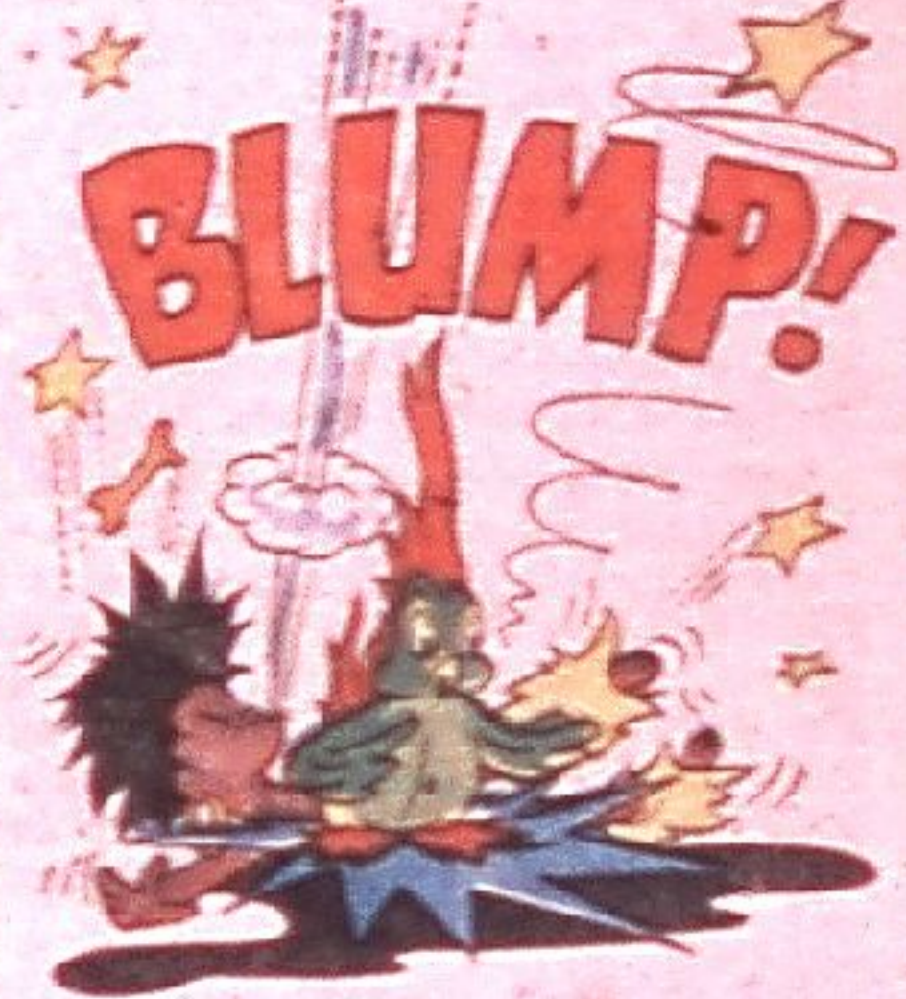
HIC
HIC



BANG!







The Mine Robbers

LANCE GALLANT broke the news that evening at the table. It began with a question.

"How would you two like to go on a little jaunt that may end with a bit of excitement?"

Kim Meredith looked up with her gay smile. Kim was the sweetheart of Michael Gallant, Lance's brother, who had been killed in an air crash.

"I'd love it, Lance," she said, "When do we go?"

Biff chuckled. Biff was Lance's pal of many years.

"Nothing would suit me better, Lance," he said. "Me, I'm tired of perching here."

"Okay," said Lance. "We'll leave in the morning—travel light."

Though Biff usually accompanied Lance on his missions of crime detection and suppression, it was seldom that Lance asked Kim to go along on a trip that implied danger. This time, however, he felt that there would be little hazard, at least that would touch her.

Early the next morning they piled into Lance's car and roared away to the west. After crossing the High Bridge they sped over North Hill Road at a fast, easy clip. Soon they were entering the foothills of a steep mountain range. Far down on the other side a dark mine shaft had been bored into the solid rock of the mountain wall. Long abandoned by John Hadley, its original owner, the mine was reputed to have a ghost.

Biff suddenly chuckled, broaching the subject of the trio's thoughts. "Ghost mine, eh?" he said. "Chasing shadows will be something new for us."

"Ghosts usually have considerable solidity about them," Lance said. "And I'll bet this one will be no exception, Biff."

Biff leaned nearer, so that Kim wouldn't hear.

"Then you anticipate trouble? Suits me fine."

Lance shrugged. "Never can tell. When John Hadley died the mine reverted to his nephew, Jack. The gold had played out. The way I see it, someone has discovered a new vein of—something in the old shaft."

Biff lifted an eyebrow. "Someone? After all . . . could be Jack . . ."

"Could be," replied Lance drily, "but he wouldn't have called me if . . ."

A short time later Lance turned the car into a dirt road a quarter-mile from the mine en-

trance. It was late afternoon. Across a shallow valley the mine shaft opened darkly into the rocky mountain wall.

Kim shivered as she stood looking at it.

"Old mines always give me the creeps," she said. "Remind me of black eyes staring at you."

As the three stared at the entrance a man emerged from the mine carrying a rifle. He stood for a moment looking around, then sauntered off toward a battered shack about a hundred yards from the mine opening. He opened the door of the shack and went inside.

"Looks like a guard," Biff observed.

Lance adjusted a tiny pair of powerful binoculars and clapped them to his eyes.

"Two men in the shack," he said. "One dressed like a city man. The other is the man we saw. Hadley said there were . . ."

"What do we do now?" Biff wanted to know.

"Wait till night," Lance said.

Kim heard the remark. "If you're going into that mine tonight, I'm going along," she said, eyes sparkling. "I crave excitement."

Lance shook his head. "Not this time, Kim. At least, not before we take a look first."

That night, as the two men stepped cautiously into the dark mine tunnel, Lance stopped suddenly. "I have a funny feeling, Biff, that we're walking into something all planned for us. Too bad Hadley isn't here to put us wise. Look, you stay outside and I'll do a quickie the safe way."

Lance was already rubbing the birthmark on his left wrist. Biff knew what the action meant—knew there was no use protesting Lance's lone probe into the darkness of the mine. As Biff watched the spirit of Lance's dead brother Michael quickly entered Lance's body. Now Lance was the invincible Captain Triumph!

When he saw Captain Triumph's lips move, Biff knew he was in silent conversation with Michael. But to Biff, Michael was invisible.

Captain Triumph turned to Biff. "Michael's told me what Hadley is up against—that this is a mighty dangerous setup, with a dozen or more men mixed up in it. It's a foreign organization, trying to grab all the uranium they can. Now I'll go in and have a look."

"Okay," Biff replied.

Captain Triumph had been gone only a few minutes when two shots blasted through the mine. The sounds came from far back. Biff waited.

A minute later another shot roared in the recess of the shaft, and Biff began walking slowly toward the sounds. Captain Triumph had warned him to remain where he was, but this was getting too interesting for Biff to hold back.

Someone shouted deep within the mine, but the sound of his voice was faint. Then there was a high-pitched yell as if from a man in mortal agony. After that—silence.

Biff heard no sound behind him, but suddenly something cracked down on his head and total darkness engulfed him. He toppled forward on his face in the mud.

Meanwhile, Captain Triumph, impervious to physical harm, had hurried through the shaft and now stood in the shadows, watching an interesting drama. He faced a large cavern, filled with modern machinery for extracting uranium ore from the clay. Five men, all wearing specially treated gloves and shoes to protect them from the deadly radium rays, were working at a ledge of thick yellow clay. Two of them were arguing violently with another pair who sat at a small table in the middle of the cavern. Because of the rumble of the machinery, Captain Triumph only caught snatches of their conversation.

Abruptly, one of the diggers stripped off his gloves and grabbed a pistol from his hip pocket. He fired point-blank at one of the men seated at the table. The bullet caught the man in the chest and he fell backward, splintering the chair. He lay still.

The killer then leaped toward the other seated man just as he rose from the table, clawing at his gun. He never reached it. Another shot from the killer's weapon, and the second man fell, coughing out his life.

Pandemonium broke loose in the cavern. The miners had stripped off their gloves and were reaching for hidden rifles and pistols.

"Come on!" one of them shouted. He plunged out of sight down a branch shaft. The others fell in behind him. Captain Triumph waited for a moment, then hurried after the gang. What was up?

In the distance a man yelled, "Stand back or I'll blast you!"

One of the gang laughed coarsely and brought up his rifle. But before he could fire a terrific explosion shook the mine. Captain Triumph heard a wild rush of water. He whirled about and dashed for the entrance. He heard the others running behind him.

He reached the prone Biff just as water began lapping at his heels. The men behind were shouting and crying out in fear.

As Captain Triumph tossed Biff over his shoulder, he heard a great crash behind him.

Evidently a section of the mine shaft had collapsed. There were no more yells from the men. They were trapped.

Once outside the mine, Captain Triumph quickly revived Biff, who had a neat lump on his head. "Come on, Biff!" he said. "Those men are trapped in there! We must try to get 'em out!"

The two ran back into the mine, but had gone scarcely thirty feet when someone called, "Stop, you guys, or I'll let you have it!"

Captain Triumph touched the birthmark on his left wrist. Instantly he was again Lance Gallant!

"Right," said Lance. "And you're Jack Hadley, aren't you?"

The youth nodded.

"Then it was you who set off the blast. Well, lad, we must rescue those men—unless they are beyond hope," Lance stated bluntly.

Hadley shrugged. "They're not." He pointed to another shaft fifty feet away. "There comes the first drowned rat. I only did it so's I could get the drop on 'em. They're the dirty thieves I tried to tell you about before they kidnapped me. I got back here just in time."

Lance nodded as he watched a dripping man crawl out of the mine hole. When two other fugitives followed, Hadley lifted his rifle. "Just in case they have any tricks cooking," he explained.

But the miners were meek enough. They had lost their firearms in the water and now they stood helpless, hands lifted in surrender.

"You win, Hadley," one of the half-drowned men snarled. "But you lost when you flooded the mine. The whole shaft has caved in."

"He don't win, not by a long shot he don't."

The man who had spoken was the last to climb out of the mine. He held one hand behind his back. Now he whipped his hand out and made a hurling motion. An object whirled through the air, straight at young Hadley.

Lance moved faster than he ever had before. In a flying leap he rose from the ground, hand outstretched. The hand closed over the object, and in one motion Lance hurled it from him into the hole of the shaft. There was an instant roar, and the ground quivered underfoot.

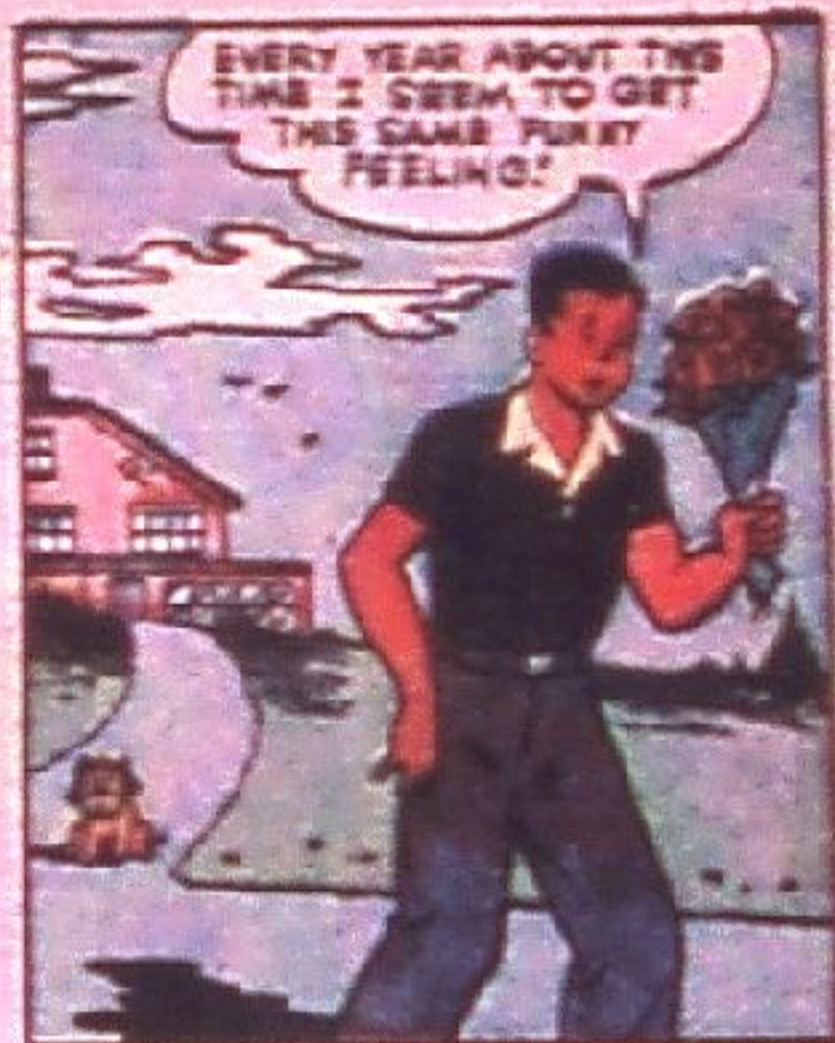
"Thanks," said Jack Hadley. "That pineapple would've blown me to bits. For two cents I'd shoot every one of these rats."

"No," said Lance. "You won't have to. They sealed their own doom when they removed their insulated gloves and shoes. These men have absorbed enough radioactive rays to kill a hundred people. You go call the sheriff. Biff and I will stand watch over them—while they last."

DEWEY DRIP

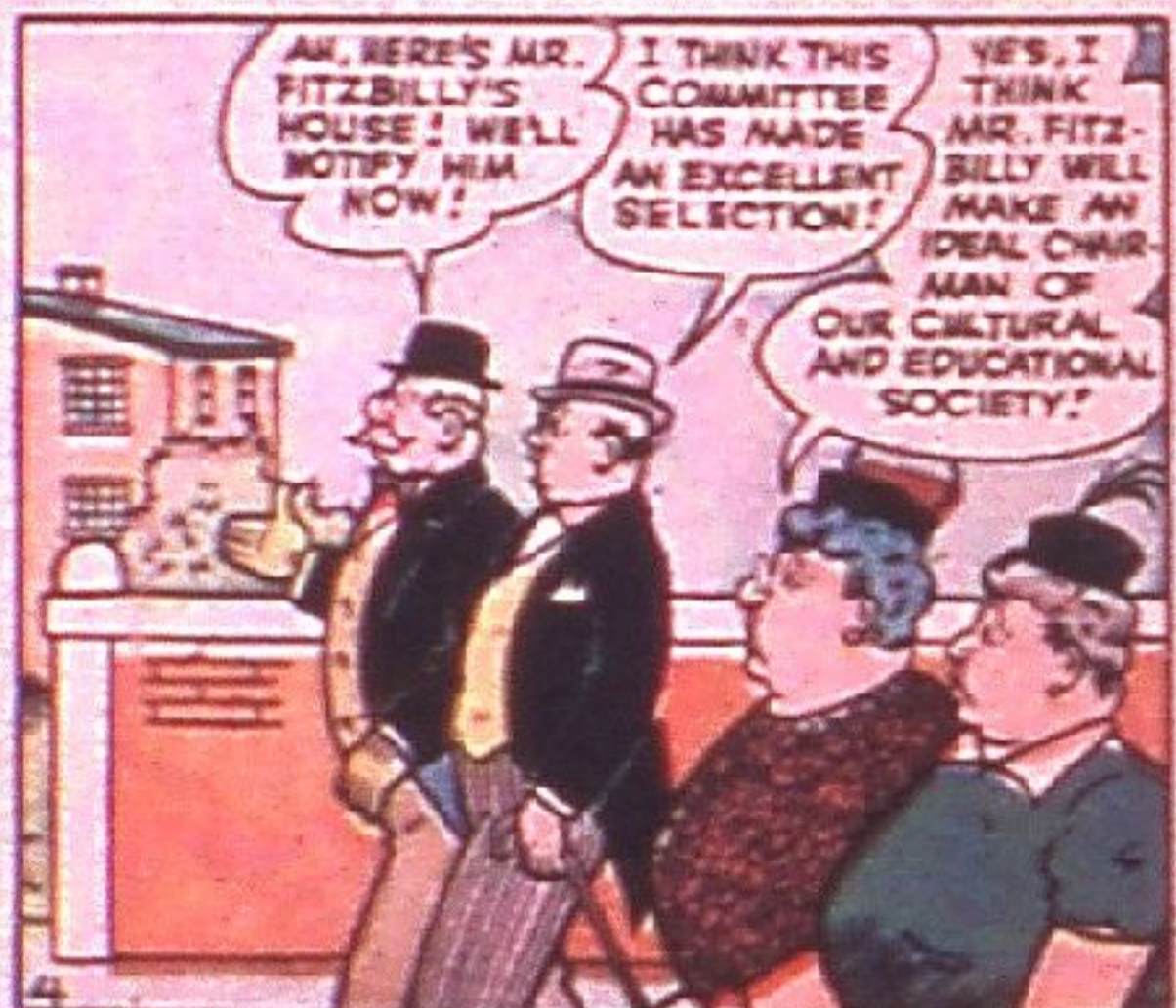


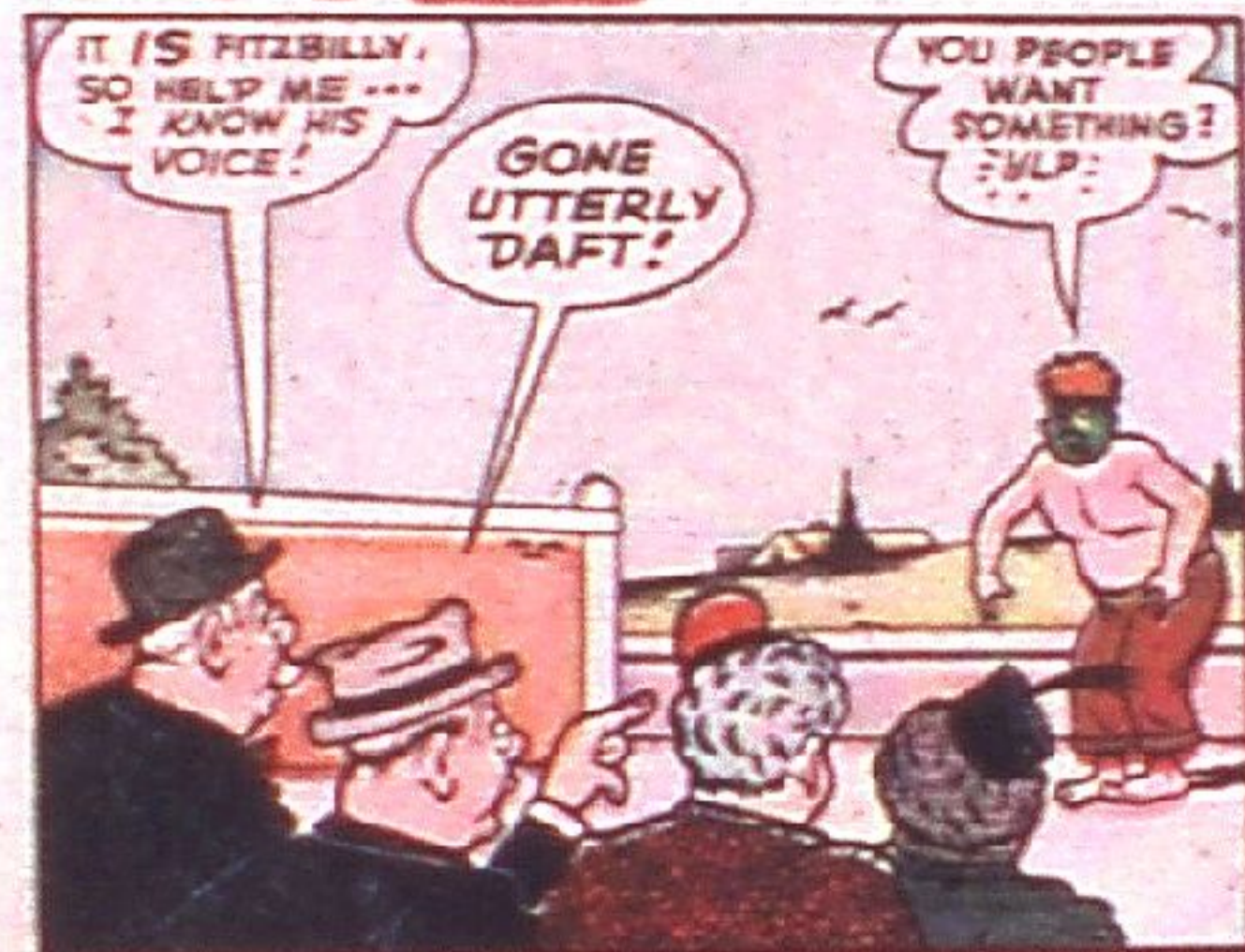
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SOME FUN!
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